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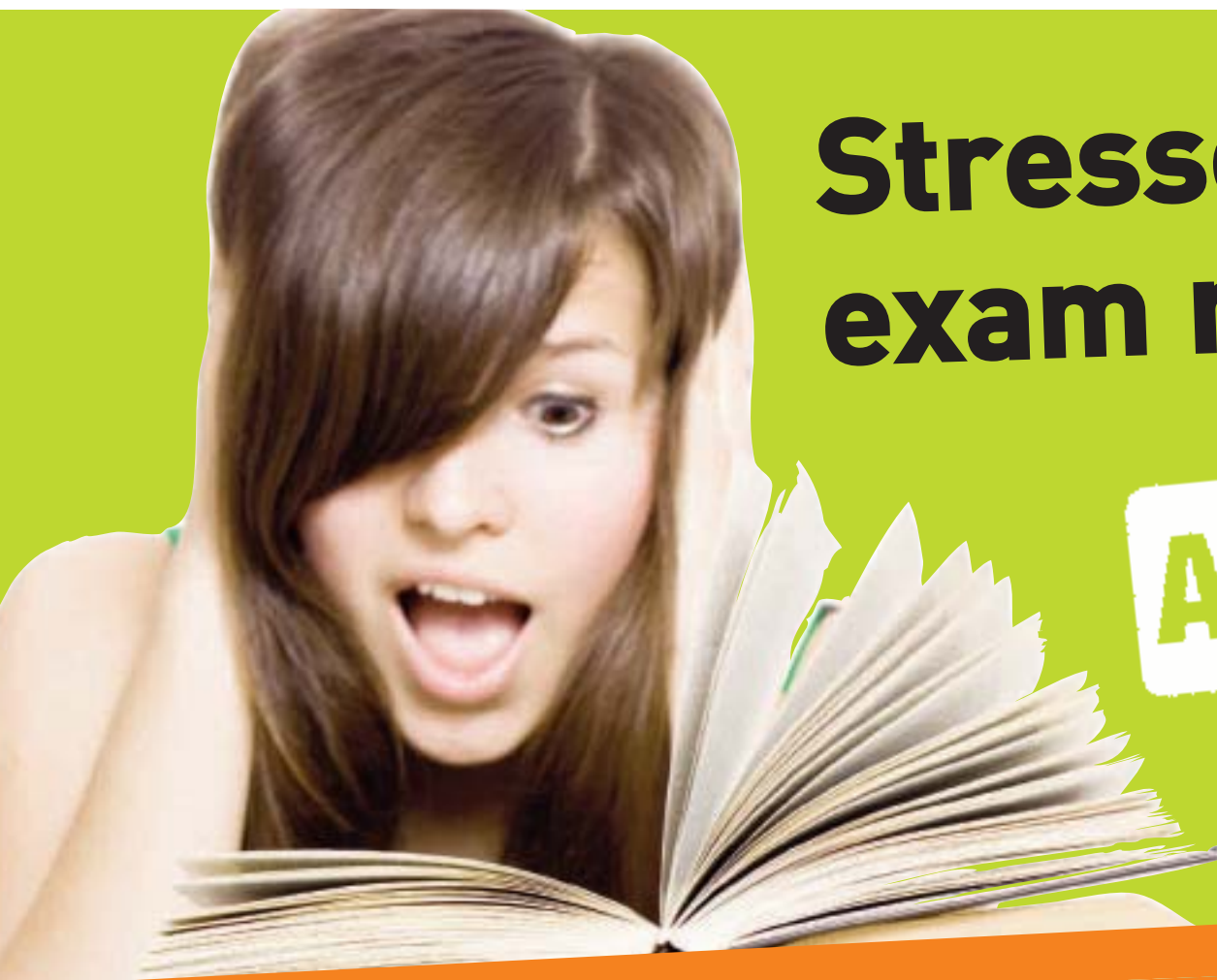
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THE NEWSPAPER FOR FOLKESTONE, HYTHE AND DISTRICT

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Issue No 101
Available from Wednesday,
August 19, 2009



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MONEY MATTERS

Our pull-out guide on ways to
make your money go further

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Top tips to help you feel good



STUDENTS TOLD VISIT TO TOWN IS 'NOT SAFE'

STUDENTS coming to Folkestone from abroad are being warned to be careful in the "dangerous" town, according to a host family.

Sarah [name changed], who lives in Saltwood, is looking after two 16-year-old boys from France who were attacked by a youngster in Radnor Park last week.

Following the incident, one of the students – who are in the area for two weeks studying at the School of English – said they had been prewarned before they even left France that the town "wasn't safe."

Sarah said the pair had been in Folkestone for just one day when they were assaulted.

■ BY MARIJKE COX

"They were at an organised sports day when a boy came up and hit one of them," she said.

"He shouted racist abuse, swearing and telling them to 'go back to their own country' and spat at the teacher.

"He then went up to the other boy, who was playing football, and took the ball. When he tried to get it he was kicked in the back."

According to Sarah, the boys were shaken up but when she asked if the tutor had called the police they said no.

"They were told not to retaliate because they would be sent home to France and not to call the police," she said. "They are very nervous to go out

now and assume this is normal behaviour in England."

When students are dropped in Folkestone, host families are given strict guidelines about how to look after them, with curfews, advice and regulations.

Sarah said: "These boys are lovely and should not be put through something like that, especially when there are such strict guidelines to make sure they are taken care of."

"They don't want to go back in to Folkestone and I don't blame them."

"Students bring revenue into the town, but if there is a bad reputation here they will go elsewhere."

Chief Inspector Martin Bradley, Shepway District Commander, stressed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



SEARCH IS ON FOR A SARTORIAL GODDESS

A Folkestone business start-up has launched a competition to find its new 'face' while helping to raise money for a 10,000ft charity skydive.

Satori Images, based in Shorncliffe Road, is offering the winner of its Goddess competition a free makeover, hairstyling by a senior Keith Graham stylist, a photoshoot with consultation, together with ten A4-size images of the best photos.

The runner-up, picked randomly from the remaining entrants, wins a makeover, photoshoot and one A4-size photo.

The studio's creative director, Wendy van Halderen-Moss, will also be accompanying her 16-year-old daughter on a daring skydive on Saturday, August 22, to raise money for Demelza House Children's Hospice.

Anyone donating £25 or more to sponsor the jump will receive a free photo shoot. To donate, go to www.justgiving.com/wendy-van-halderen-moss, while to find out more about the competition go to www.satori-images.com.

The last date for entries is Monday, September 14, with the prize-winners announced on Saturday, October 3.

ISSN 1753-113-6



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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Julie Maddlocks visits St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury to see the Screen on the Green open-air cinema. **Search 'Screen'**



2 Two servicemen injured in Afghanistan compete in a 22-mile relay swim across the Channel. **Search 'Channel'**



3 Broadstairs Folk Week brought vast crowds of families and music-lovers to the town. **Search 'Folk'**

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EDITOR: Dave Mairs 01303 817022
GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032
WEBSITE: www.yourshepway.co.uk
TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110
FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yourshepway@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk
HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
 Printed by Newsfax

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Parking review will not include 'fairer' meters

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

PARKING charges which better reflect the amount of money a driver has paid into the meter will not be introduced in the district, council bosses have said.

The response comes despite the use by neighbouring authorities of the 'linear' parking system, where motorists' pay-and-display tickets reflect exactly how much change they put in.

For example, using a £2 coin where parking costs £1.50 an hour would allow an extra 33 per cent parking time of 20 minutes, allowing a total of 80 minutes. Currently, Shepway's machines are set at fixed tariffs which do not give change.

The news comes after the council announced it was looking to reduce its projected budget shortfall, including charging for on-street parking, scrapping free car parks and getting rid of those which are loss-making.

Ripped off

Yourshepway reader Tony Groom, from Hythe, said he contacted the council's transportation manager in June 2007 to suggest introducing the charging system, which is already in operation in Dover and Canterbury, and was told it would be considered.

However, two years later there appears to be no change in the council's position.

Mr Groom said: "The motorist continues to get ripped off by Shepway. "I have just returned from Holland, where linear charges are the norm, and Canterbury, to their credit, is among the councils in the UK who operate this policy.

"The 'no change given' notice on Shepway's parking meters may make their policy legal, but is it moral when it is so easy to give change or extra parking time?"



EMPTY: The almost-deserted car park at Sandgate after charges were introduced

Shepway council said its machines could not give change for security reasons but it was looking at ways of introducing other forms of payment.

A spokesman said: "Our initial investigation into linear charging suggests that it works better in on-street parking locations close to shops in high streets.

"We currently do not have pay-and-display facilities on our streets. On-street parking is free. Later this year we will look at other payment options, like cashless parking."

On Monday, Sandgate's Castle Road car park became a pay-and-display after previously being free, leaving it virtually deserted, according to county councillor Tim Prater.

He said Shepway had demanded £25,000 a year from Sandgate parish council to keep the car park free, five times as much as before, and so forcing the introduction of a new meter.

A Shepway spokesman said it was implementing an agreed policy for this year's budget and believed the income received from charging would outweigh the amount from Sandgate.

yourshepway

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pensioner in hospital after being hit by car

A **PENSIONER** is in hospital with head injuries after being hit by a car in Hythe on Monday afternoon, forcing surrounding roads to close.

The incident happened in Red Lion Square just before 2pm and the man, believed to be in his 70s or 80s, was taken to William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. His injuries are not considered life-threatening.

The driver of the vehicle, a Nissan Figaro, was unhurt but shocked.

The road was closed at the junction of West Hougham and Stage Street and the end of The Old High Street before being reopened at 7pm.

Benefits team in line for national award

SHEPWAY council's benefits team, once rated among the worst in the country, has reached the finals of a national competition.

Less than 18 months ago, the team, which handles all housing and council tax benefits enquiries, faced a huge backlog.

Now it has been named as one of five finalists in the Most Improved Team of the Year awards, with inspectors noting the reduced average time taken to process claims, with more being dealt with within 48 hours and at less cost.

Harbour designated as a dispersal area

FOLKESTONE harbour has been designated a no-go zone for antisocial teenagers and youths who risk their lives by jumping from the harbour.

From last Friday the harbour became a Dispersal Area, allowing police officers to move on any group of people who are causing intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress.

Those under the age of 16 who are not accompanied by a responsible adult can also be taken back to their homes between 9pm- 6am.

Failure to comply with the order, under the 2003 Anti-Social Behaviour Act, is a criminal offence punishable by a fine and/or three months' imprisonment.

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Historic postbox gets a stamp of approval

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

A POSTBOX in Hythe has been immortalised on a new stamp.

The vibrant red example is known as a Victorian Lamp Box – this one is even surrounded by green ivy.

From Tuesday last week, it appeared among a new set of Royal Mail stamps which marks the history of this style of old postboxes.

This one is at Botolph's Bridge, Burmarsh Road, Hythe, and will now be seen around the Continent on the 81p stamp, which is used for European airmail up to 40g.

The Royal Mail said the historic example of

an original Victorian lamp was installed in 1896. It was originally designed to be attached to a lamp-post, but sometimes, like this one in Hythe, it was buried in a wall.

They are smaller than their pillar-box cousins seen in large towns and cities so were ideal for smaller communities or villages.

The first full-size boxes were installed in 1852 in the Channel Islands and from 1853 on the mainland.

However, smaller postboxes were then needed as a cheaper and more practical alternative to pillar-boxes for less populated or remote areas, such as Hythe at the time.

From 1857, postboxes began appearing in walls, buildings or brick pillars and were later to be found on poles and lamp-posts. They were

introduced for the convenience of people posting unpaid letters. That meant the not-so-lucky recipients had to pay for their own delivery.

Production of wall boxes ended in 1980, and in 1995 freestanding pedestal boxes were introduced, but about 114,000 postboxes of all kinds still exist across the UK.

The new sheet of stamps features four of the five last iconic wall-mounted boxes.

Melanie Corfield, Royal Mail's head of external relations for London and the South East, said: "Postboxes have a wonderful character all of their own and I think the miniature sheet brings that out beautifully.

"The theme is continued with the generic sheet, which is full of fascinating examples of postboxes from all over the UK."

Harbour plans in the spotlight

ANOTHER leading architect could be about to throw his support behind the regeneration of Folkestone harbour, despite the delay and uncertainty over the proposed masterplan.

Sir Terry Farrell, whose firm has designed the likes of Incheon International Airport in South Korea and the MI6 building in London, is believed to be reviewing the site.

In 2006 Foster and Partners, headed by Lord Foster, produced a blueprint for the harbour which included a university campus, ice-rink, exhibition area, fast-ferry port and 1,400 homes.

However, the development of the 35-acre site has been postponed due to the economic downturn, with owner the Folkestone Harbour Company looking at other ways of delivering the benefits.

Options

Peter Bettley, spokesman for the Harbour Company, said: "My understanding is that Sir Terry Farrell is working on a review of options for key sites across Kent, and that Folkestone harbour is one of these.

"I understand also that a Fosters team is continuing to review the plan that it submitted in 2006.

"It is important that we remain open to revision of the original plan and to new ideas, although the objectives will remain the same – to provide Folkestone with a seafront environment that will stand the test of time, that will be practical to develop and economically viable."

Sir Terry has designed a number of high-profile buildings, including the iconic TV-AM studios in north London.

Lord Foster's partnership is responsible for a range of iconic buildings, including the new Wembley stadium and the 'Gherkin' office tower in London.

Former Saga boss Roger De Haan bought the harbour in 2004.

'Incidents should be reported'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

that Folkestone is a safe town but that any incidents should be reported to the police.

"Already this year we have reduced crime by 13.7 per cent, or 337 crimes since April 2009," he said.

"We encourage all students to report incidents to police either direct or via their host family or language school.

"This is part of the introduction package that is given to students when they arrive.

"Shepway police work closely with the language schools through the Shepway Overseas Liaison Group, of which there are six member schools, with police and Folkestone Town Centre Partnership.

"This group has existed for approximately ten years and has been successful in linking with the language schools and has gained a good reputation for Folkestone as a venue for students."

But Sarah said the boys now preferred to stay out of the town and instead go for walks in Saltwood.

"They are scared to go back into town in case the same thing happens again," she said.

Hundreds evacuated as tea light left on TV sparks hotel fire

MORE than 850 people had to be evacuated from a Folkestone hotel in the early hours of Monday after a candle burned through a TV set.

Fire crews from Folkestone, Dymchurch and Ashford were called to the scene just before 1am and evacuated the eight-storey Grand Burstin Hotel in Marine Parade.

A total of 816 guests, three of whom had physical disabilities, and 44 staff waited outside while fire-fighters searched the building.

The blaze was caused after a couple staying in one of the rooms lit tea lights and left them unattended.

One of the mini-candles had been left on top of a television and burned through the set, sparking the fire.

The alarm was raised after a passer-by spotted smoke pouring from the window and alerted the reception staff.

At its height, five fire crews and 35 fire-fighters were at the scene.

Hydrants, jets and a positive-pressure ventilation fan, which drives out heat and smoke while

pumping fresh air in, were used to deal with the heavily smokelogged guest room and corridor. The all-clear was given just before 3am.

Kent Fire and Rescue's Russ Jordan praised his colleagues for their work in containing the blaze in the high-rise building.

He said: "This incident could have proved extremely hazardous, but no one was injured and I think this is testament to the skill and professionalism of the fire-fighters.

"Unfortunately, people often treat tea lights as some sort of harmless decoration, but we know that they can cause damage, destruction and even death."

Kent Fire advises that when using tea lights, always place them in a suitable holder on a heat-resistant surface, not to let anything fall into the hot wax, keep them away from anything that could easily catch fire and never leave them unattended.

For more safety advice, you can visit Kent Fire and Rescue's website at www.kent.fire-uk.org.

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Police release efit after armed raid

POLICE have released efit images of an armed robber who raided a jewellery shop in Dover.

The incident happened at Simmonds Jewellers in Biggin Street at about 4pm on Wednesday, July 22. A man armed with a black handgun demanded that staff hand over jewellery and cash.

The robber is white, aged 30-35, 6ft tall, thin and with dark-brown hair. He was wearing a beige or grey jacket with a hooded top, black three-quarter-length shorts with white piping and black trainers.

Anyone with information is asked to phone police on 01303 850055 or Crime-stoppers on 0800 555111.



Live and laugh as town ups the fun

A NEW venture has been set up in Dover to bring live entertainment opportunities to the town.

The project, called DoverLive, has been organised by district councillor John Goodwin and vice-chairman of the Dover Regatta Gill Gough.

On Saturday, September 5, at 7pm they will be bringing comedian Richard Digance to Dover Town Hall for a night of nostalgic comedy.

He will be joined by Louise Orfila and Kent band Rags To Riches.

Tickets for the show are priced at £15 and £10 and are available by phoning 01304 212277 or 07765 514 078.

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Dover band Kingskin create merry music in Ashford. Search 'Kingskin'

Hospitals trust rakes in cool £1 million for car-parking

■ BY MARIJKE COX

EAST Kent Hospitals Trust has been highlighted in a survey by consumer magazine Which? following an investigation into parking charges.

The magazine discovered that four hospital trusts out of 25 surveyed made more than £1 million in profit alone charging staff, visitors and patients to park.

Among those was East Kent Hospitals, which made £1.02 million, a 175 per cent profit margin.

The consumer magazine asked for the data from the 25 largest hospital trusts in England under the Freedom of Information Act.

Which? says that hospital trusts have to charge for car-parking space to ensure resources are not diverted from health care. But it questions the need for such large profit margins.

Claire Lilley, health policy adviser with Which?, said: "Our research shows high charges don't always result in high profits but where they do, these charges should be reduced."

Chris Hurley, head of operational estates for the East Kent University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The car-parking charges at our hospitals pay for the car-parking running costs such as maintenance, lighting, CCTV, car-park attendants, administration costs and capital charges.

"If car-parking was provided free, then we would be faced with costs of hundreds of thousands of pounds – money which would have to come from our patient care budget.

"For example, the trust recently spent around £265,000 to build a car-park extension at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

"Under the present system this kind of expenditure is paid for and all surplus income is spent on patient care.

"Our charges are among the lowest among South East hospitals and we also provide weekly season tickets for around £10 for those who

need to come to the hospital to visit relatives or for treatment frequently.

"There are also special arrangements in place for regular attendees and our free-at-the-point-of-use in-house patient transport service makes around 750,000 journeys a year carrying patients to and from hospital."

John Fletcher is governor of Kent Link, which looks at ways of improving health care.

He said: "We are well aware of the problems of car-parking. But money raised goes in to the actual running of the hospitals concerned and if this was not available it would have to be obtained from elsewhere. It all goes into the pot."

Norman Lamb, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, said: "Some NHS hospitals are making a staggering amount of money from car-parking charges, and many are still not offering real discounts to those with chronic illnesses.

"Hospitals should be able to cover their costs, but they shouldn't be allowed to use hidden charges to get themselves out of financial black holes. This amounts to a tax on the sick."

Picture IMAGES INTERNATIONAL LTD



DESPERATE MEASURES

Some would-be migrants are mutilating their fingerprints so that their true identities cannot be established, according to French sources.

They either burn their hands on a red-hot oven, coat them with chemicals, or remove layers of skin to prevent identification.

This means that data showing everything from criminal records to attempts to claim asylum will not appear on European-wide computers.

The details were revealed by Calais prefect Gerard Gavory, who said that more than 50 asylum-seekers questioned had their fingerprints removed.

Scars caused by knives and razors were commonplace, or polyurethane glue or acid was used to remove fingerprints, but the most common method was to place fingers on a hot oven hob and turn up the heat.

The European Union database Eurodoc stores asylum-seekers' prints. If officials discover applicants have already had their case heard in another EU state, they are liable to be sent back.

Known criminals can also be turned back.

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Mum has benefits cancelled week before major op

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A MOTHER of three from Dover says she will struggle to pay the bills after her incapacity benefits were stopped a week before she has major surgery.

Sandra Johnson, 45, from Buckland, told KOS Media that a doctor's note confirming she is unable to work due to a large lump on her ovary has been overlooked by the Department for Work and Pensions.

"I'm in constant pain and have been told that although the cyst may not be cancerous, it's not 100 per cent certain until it is removed and examined," she said.

"I've been having tests for nearly a year and waiting to have the operation for five months, which has been very stressful, but now my ESA [Employment and Support Allowance] is going to be stopped I feel like I can't cope."

Designed

ESA, which replaced incapacity benefits in October 2008, is designed to give people support to improve their health and help them back to work.

Mrs Johnson said she had also suffered from depression most of her life which was made worse 17 years ago when she tragically lost her baby boy.

Her recovery was set back when her mother and brother-in-law died within a few years of each other.

"I'm not ashamed of my depression, but I think people treat you differently if you have it," she said.

"It's made me a stronger person over the years as I've had to fight to show people what it's really about."

"You struggle with everyday things, small or big, that can be so easy for those who do not suffer from it."

Mrs Johnson believes the problem with the new ESA system is that it is only designed for people with specific disabilities and does not cater for those having major surgery.

"The application is a set of boxes that have to be ticked, but there is no box for people who are awaiting serious operations," she said.

"This means when they are recovering they



STRAIN: Sandra Johnson says stress from having her ESA withdrawn leaves her feeling unable to cope

have the added stress of having no financial support."

Mrs Johnson said that in her own case she was sent a letter by the Department for Work and Pensions saying she was not entitled to any more payments.

She said she had produced all her medical paperwork to support her claim.

"I have a doctor's note that lists problems that are making everyday life difficult, yet this has been overlooked by the person who sits behind a desk and ticks boxes," she said.

"I've found out GPs are not contacted for medical information when the assessments are carried out, either."

"The past year has been very stressful as I've had a number of problems with the NHS with delays in my treatment without any information or reasons why."

"I feel so tired with all the writing of paperwork and running around to get help with this it has made my condition worse."

"I hate it that my children see my getting so upset all the time – it's enough they have the worry about me and the surgery."

A spokesman from the Department for Work and Pensions said: "We are concerned to hear about this case and we will be contacting Mrs Johnson to try to sort it out."

Dover and Deal MP Gwyn Prosser has also written to Mrs Johnson saying he will look into the matter.

your shepway NEWS IN BRIEF

Technical hitch at windfarm

SEVEN out of the 26 wind-turbines on Romney Marsh have been hit by technical problems – just a month after the site was opened.

Transformers at the base of the turbines have been removed and returned to Belgium, RWE npower renewables, which built the site, said in a statement.

It read: "All major work has been completed at Little Cheyne Court windfarm. However, there have been technical problems with some of the transformers."

"The problems with the transformers are not pertinent to wind-turbine technology but associated with the high-voltage circuit."

Replacement transformers are set to be delivered in mid-September and the site fully operational by mid-October.

The company said the remaining 19 turbines were running normally at the site, which was opened by Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband on Monday, July 13.

Town has perfect climate

DYMCHURCH has been named as having one of the UK's best microclimates, sheltered from the damp and drizzle which has turned Britain's summer into a washout.

The weather at the seaside town has been compared to the south of France, with palm trees thriving and vines growing in gardens – TV weatherman Michael Fish has described it as a "meteorological Shangri-La".

National newspaper reports have highlighted Dymchurch as an example of those corners of the country where climate conditions are different to the area around them.

The phenomenon is thought to be caused by the surrounding hills.

Beer, cider and all that jazz

A BEER and cider festival is being held at The Louis Armstrong pub in Dover.

It is running over the bank holiday weekend starting the evening of Friday, August 28.

There will be about 16 real ales on offer and four local ciders.

A number of bands will be performing, including Jumbo Gumbo on the Friday, Cowpats on the Saturday, the LA Music Club at 2pm on the Sunday and the Andy Maclean Jazz band from 8.30pm Sunday.

For more information, phone the Louis Armstrong pub on 01304 204759.

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Friday 18th Mandy Winters - The Concert

Saturday 19th Disco Inferno 13

OCTOBER 2009

Saturday 3rd Dancing Days

Sunday 4th Noddy in Toyland

Thursday 8th - Friday 9th Funtime - Autumn Variety

Saturday 10th Derek Acorah

Sunday 18th Vienna Festival Ballet

Wednesday 21st Bowling for Soup

Friday 23rd Festival of Remembrance

Sunday 25th LND Wrestling - Cage Match

Sunday 27th Tha Adventures of Simple Simon

NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday 1st Jimmy Carr Live

Saturday 7th The Specials - SOLD OUT

Saturday 14th Circus of Horrors

A service charge may be applicable on certain shows - please check with the box office

Dance event to celebrate build-up to the Olympics

SPECIAL celebrations are being held in Dover for the Cultural Olympiad.

The town is to become All Dancing Dover from 10pm on Saturday, August 29, with displays from dance groups and other entertainment.

The event is being held to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad and follows the success of last year's launch in Dover.

The Cultural Olympiad marks the four years leading up to the London Olympics 2012 and looks to bring different cultures and young people together.

Performances will be displayed on the big screen in Market Square and there

will be some surprises throughout the day.

All Dancing Dover has been awarded an Inspire Mark, which means it is officially recognised as part of the Cultural Olympiad celebrations across the country.

Sue Chandler, Dover District Council member for community, said it was a fantastic achievement for the area.

"We are delighted to receive this recognition," she said.

"This is a dance event with a difference and is an event that can involve the whole community and there is an element of this celebration that will appeal to everyone."

To get involved, visit www.dover.gov.uk.

100 years of entertainment

The Winter Gardens Centenary Appeal Fundraising Dinner

Appeal to provide funding for essential building work prior to our centenary in 2011

Wednesday 30th September 7pm for 7.45pm

£27.50 per head or £200.00 for a table of 8

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Thinking of a career in Engineering?

In Kent, you could be making, assembling and maintaining world-beating Formula 1 racing cars or developing and producing the guidance systems for the eurofighter.

You can take your first step towards a rewarding career in all types of engineering by joining an **Engineering Course** at **South Kent College**.

There is a full progression route from courses at GCSE level through to "A" and higher education levels. We will help you join at the level that best suits your qualifications and experience. We offer a wide range of full-time, part-time and apprenticeship options. Suitable courses are free to 16-18 year-olds and there may be no tuition fees to pay if you are 19+ depending on your circumstances.

All courses run at our Ashford (Jemmett Road) campus.

Pupils ending Year 11 are welcome to find out more/apply even if they are considering other offers.

For information on Engineering courses:

Call 01233 655565 or 655587 email john.hurley@southkent.ac.uk visit drop in and see us at Ashford (Jemmett Road) campus

100% success on.. the Intermediate Certificate in Engineering and Technology

This popular full-time one-year Level 2 course is equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grade A-C. The content is an ideal introduction to mechanical (e.g. high specification parts for cars), electronic (e.g. the science of circuit boards for mobile phones) and maintenance engineering. All 24 students taking this qualification passed this year.

Meet two successful students who joined this course after Year 11:

Conor did well at school but he found it boring and wanted more freedom. He decided to try engineering after an interview at the College.

"I've really enjoyed my course as it has mechanical, electrical and maintenance aspects as well as key skills, so it has opened up a lot of options for future course and career choices. The tutors are really able to get the information across and always ask if you need help. You also have a pastoral tutor to support you. Mine, Wendy, was great. If you had any problems at College you could discuss them with her and she would help sort them out."

Conor adds:

"I liked the learning methods on this course because of the heavy emphasis on practical skills. You have to focus a lot and every detail is vital. I am now progressing onto the BTEC National Diploma in Engineering which is a 2-year course. I've made lots of friends here and I am really pleased that there will be 5 of my friends joining too."

After the National Diploma, Conor hopes to find employment working as an engineer on tower cranes or generators.



Joshua didn't enjoy school and much preferred doing things with his hands to academic studies. Joshua left with mostly Ds or Es in his GCSEs but had also done well on an introductory engineering course. From the age of 13 he has been helping and working for the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway.

"I asked the railway for a full-time job but was told I had to be 18 and also that I required broader engineering skills. I was not at all sure about College after my experience at school but was persuaded at interview to give it a go. So I started the course, found I liked the College and not only discovered aspects of engineering that were completely new to me such as milling, but also found the maintenance training really useful."

During the course Joshua was in a team of 3 who were awarded a "Vernier Caliper" (a valuable piece of measuring equipment) for good attendance, safety awareness and quality of work. This included milling and turning work to 0.1mm accuracy.

Joshua commented:

"I'm really pleased I did the course. I have a recognised engineering qualification covering mechanical and electronic engineering which I can use as a springboard for further qualifications in the future, and I leave the course with broader and more finely tuned skills which will help me enormously in my new job on the railway. The work involves workshop work, track maintenance, signal box work and eventually I get to drive a train."



There are 5 other college-based Engineering courses to choose from and a range of work-based learning opportunities. For more details ask for a young people's or adult guide or visit www.southkent.ac.uk.

For information on all other courses offered by South Kent College
Call 0845 2078220 email courseinformation@southkent.ac.uk
visit www.southkent.ac.uk or drop in and see us.

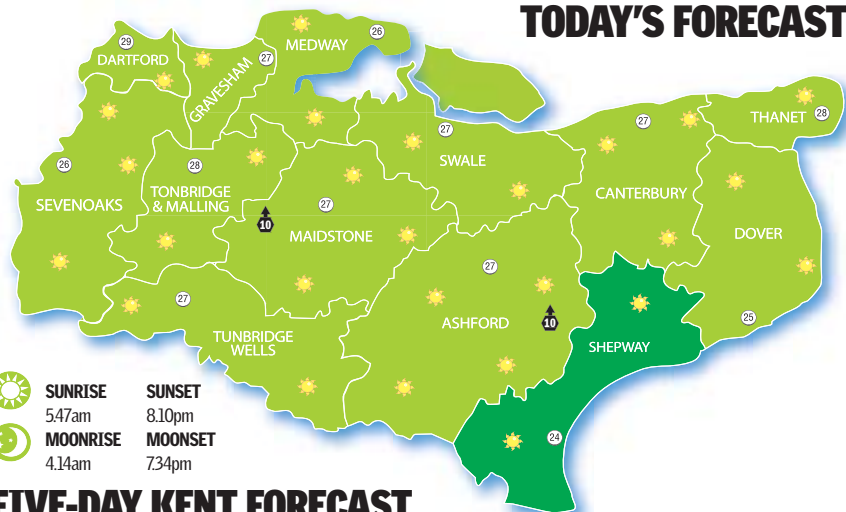


South Kent College
 ASHFORD > DOVER > FOLKESTONE

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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:53pm	6.5m
	Sunday	3:34pm	6.5m
Dover	Saturday	1:12pm	7.1m
	Sunday	1:52pm	7.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:11pm	8.2m
	Sunday	1:51pm	8.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:42pm	5.4m
	Sunday	2:22pm	5.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:43pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:24pm	6.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:51pm	5.6m
	Sunday	3:32pm	5.6m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	21°C	Madrid	36°C
Athens	31°C	New York	32°C
Barcelona	30°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	25°C	Rome	30°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	27°C
Cardiff	19°C	Tokyo	29°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	28°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	11°C

Recovery plan to rescue ferry firm

BOSSES at struggling ferry firm SeaFrance have finalised a recovery plan for the company. At a meeting last week it was decided the fleet of seven ships would be reduced to three and that 550 staff in France would go.

A board of directors from French railway company SNCF, which owns SeaFrance, believe this is the best way to keep the troubled operator afloat.

Implementation of the plan will begin at the end of September.

A spokesman from the firm said mainly sea-going personnel would be affected but stressed that SNCF was doing all it could to help workers find new jobs.

She said: "SNCF has made more than 400 jobs available within the group for SeaFrance staff to take up and generous severance compensation is on offer".

Leaked

Crossings by SeaFrance's freight-only ship will also be reduced.

The spokesman said: "The recovery plan is based on a three-ship fleet plus the utilisation of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais freight-only ship on a limited basis until the end of the year."

The move follows a memo by Pierre Fa, chairman of the board of directors, which was leaked to French media, in which he voiced concerns that SeaFrance could face bankruptcy.

But his fears were played down by the company, with a spokesman stating that SeaFrance had seen an increase in business.

Problems in the firm were exposed in February and LD Lines and Brittany Ferries came forward with partial takeover plans.

Both offers were considered by SNCF, but the recent recovery plan is the first step forward as bosses look at the best way to secure the future of the company.

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	23°C	27°C	22°C	20°C	20°C	Gravesend	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	21°C
Canterbury	24°C	28°C	23°C	21°C	21°C	Maidstone	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	20°C
Chatham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Ramsgate	24°C	28°C	23°C	21°C	21°C
Dartford	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Rochester	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Dover	22°C	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Sevenoaks	23°C	26°C	20°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Folkestone	22°C	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Tonbridge	24°C	27°C	21°C	20°C	20°C
Gillingham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Tun Wells	24°C	27°C	21°C	20°C	20°C

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<input type="checkbox"/> Cycle London to Paris:	25 - 28 June 2010
<input type="checkbox"/> Trek Mont Blanc:	26 - 30 August 2010
<input type="checkbox"/> Climb Kilimanjaro:	16 - 26 September 2010
<input type="checkbox"/> Trek the Great Wall of China:	9 - 18 October 2010

Name: _____ Ref: YLSH
Address: _____ Postcode: _____
Tel: _____
Email: _____

Please send to: Serita Boxall, Martha Trust, Homestead Lane, Hacklinge, Deal, Kent CT14 0PS
For further information email: seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk

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QUESTION & ANSWER

FIONA WISEMAN



Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A I am a fully-qualified social-worker and have a masters degree in social care from Hull University, where I specialised in palliative and adult care. I was the first social-worker to be based in a cancer services team in a Kent hospital, have now been a social-worker for more than ten years and became Macmillan's senior social-work practitioner in July. I have worked as the social-worker within the cancer services team at Medway Maritime Hospital for eight years and have also worked as a social-worker at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury, so I have experience of supporting a range of cancer patients.

Q Tell us about your role

A I work with any cancer patient, their family, carers and friends in the early stages of their cancer diagnosis to meet their emotional and practical needs. Social needs are equally as important to address as health problems.

Q How can you help them?

A A cancer diagnosis can have a huge impact on families emotionally, practically and financially. Most cancer patients I see would be ineligible for a local authority social-worker, so I provide an important service to many patients who would otherwise not

receive this kind of social support. Through my access to resources and specialist advice, I can give patients detailed knowledge and expertise about things like benefits, grants and housing.

Q How do people diagnosed with cancer get put in touch with you?

A Macmillan's clinical nurse specialists refer patients to me and I have around 70 patients on my caseload. I see patients either at home or in hospital.

Q What financial help can Macmillan provide for cancer patients?

A Financial problems can be a huge heartache for families and some cancer patients refuse treatment until these issues are resolved. Carers and patients may have to cut their working hours or stop work completely. To help patients with the financial impact of cancer, I help with applications for benefits and grants, such as Macmillan's financial grants scheme.

More and more patients are applying for financial grants to pay for things like utility bills, so they're invaluable. Grants can also be used for things to help improve a person's quality of life. For example, I recently successfully applied for a grant that helped a female cancer patient buy some exercise equipment to help her feel better about herself and build her self-esteem. I also secured a grant for a man undergoing dialysis who needed a low table so he

could receive treatment more comfortably at home. Grants have been given to some patients so they can do a course and gain confidence before returning to work. I also help families budget and help them apply for schemes such as the blue badge for disabled drivers.

Q Do you also act as a counsellor for cancer victims and their families?

A Providing emotional support is a key part of what I do. Families can feel quite helpless when a loved one receives a cancer diagnosis – they often feel a lack of control. Couples may not be talking to one another and will need a safe, open environment to open up and start communicating again. The counselling is flexible – some families may have a one-off appointment, others have regular sessions.

Q Why are Macmillan professionals needed and should the NHS be supporting patients better?

A Patients often tell me that being supported by someone not medically orientated really helps. I will explain the treatment in simple terms and clarify confusing terminology, for example explaining terms like a domiciliary nurse or what care is provided by a hospice.

We are now recruiting another Macmillan social-worker who will be part of Medway Maritime's new Positive Living Team. I am proud to be part of a Macmillan professional team that provides a holistic patient experience and improves the lives of cancer patients.

Q & A

The senior social-work practitioner for Macmillan Cancer Support in Kent spoke to **Jon Coates** about the variety of ways the charity's professionals can help cancer victims and their families across the county

CROSSKEYS 
COACHES



2009 DAY TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS

Boulogne & Le Touquet
Friday 11th –
Saturday 12th September
£74 Per Person, Bed & Breakfast

August		ADULT
Thu 20th	Legoland	£31.50
Sat 22nd	Wembley Stadium Tour	£33.00
Sat 22nd	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
Thu 27th	Boulogne	£23.00
Fri 28th	Thorpe Park	£39.00
Sat 29th	Brussels	£31.00
Sun 30th	Diggerland	£23.00
Mon 31st	Walking With Dinosaurs The Arena Spectacular	£50.00

September		ADULT
Wed 2nd	Buckingham Palace	SOLD OUT £33.00
Sat 5th	Ostend	£24.00
Sun 6th	Duxford Air Show	£39.00
Mon 7th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00

September		ADULT
Thu 10th	BBC Television Tour	£23.50
Fri 11th	Boulogne and Le Touquet (2 Days 1 Night)	£74.00
Sat 12th	Le Touquet	£24.50
Mon 13th	Walpole Museum & Shell Grotto	£14.50
Wed 15th	Arras	£27.00
Fri 17th	Boulogne	£23.00
Sat 19th	Montreuil	£25.00
Sun 20th	LondonEye, Carvery & Cruise	£54.00
Wed 23rd	Audley End House & Gardens	£24.00
Sat 26th	Sluis	£33.00
Wed 30th	Bruges	£31.00

October		ADULT
Sat 3rd	De Panne	£19.50
Mon 5th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00

**Birmingham
Tattoo**

Saturday 28th –
Sunday 29th November
**£97 Per Person,
Bed & Breakfast**

**Warners
Bodelwyddan
Castle**

Monday 30th November –
Friday 4th December
**£295 Per Person,
Half Board**

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Funeral of Captain Ben Babington-Browne, killed in Afghanistan. Search 'Ben'



Festival commemorates Kent's mining heritage. Search 'mining'



Tom Betts samples exotic meats at acclaimed Indian restaurant. Search 'exotic'



The Clash's Nick 'Topper' Headon opens an event for Porchlight. Search 'Headon'



The Kingfisher Trust runs boat trips for disabled people. Search 'Kingfisher'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

It's a vine time to be a Kentish wine producer

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

FOUR Kent vineyards have been popping the corks after doing well at this year's Decanter World Wine Awards.

While Bordeaux, Champagne and even Chablis, may spring to mind when considering the best wines in the world, it seems Cranbrook and Tenterden need to be added to the list.

The organisers of the most influential and prestigious wine competition in the world, said the Kent winemakers have put the county on the global wine map.

The awards attracted more entries from producers across the globe than ever before, yet despite the increased competition four Kentish wineries scooped an impressive nine awards between them, including the much-sought after Regional Trophy.

The Chapel Down Winery in Tenterden scooped five medals.

They were two bronzes for its Rosé Brut NV and Pinot Reserve 2004, plus three that were commended. They were Century Extra Dry NV, plus Brut NV and Bacchus Reserve 2007.

Boss Guy Tresnan said: "We are delighted to have been recognised for the quality of our wines, particularly as these awards are international."

"After the announcement we got calls from around the world from potential trade customers and consumers, genuinely engaged by what we are doing here in the heart of the Kent."

Meopham Valley was awarded a commended for its Brut 2004, and a bronze for its Rosé Brut 2005. Owner David Grey said: "This year's success validates our wines internationally as well as validating them to our consumers."

Gusbourne Estate Vineyard in Ashford took



RAISE A GLASS: Richard Balfour-Lynn, winner of the Regional Trophy at the Decanter World Wine Awards

a bronze award for the Classic Blend 2006. And Hush Heath Manor in Cranbrook won a Regional Trophy for its Balfour Brut Rosé.

Richard Balfour-Lynn, producer at Hush Heath, said: "We all feel enormous pride at winning the Decanter World Wine gold medal and trophy. This gives the whole team involved with Balfour Brut Rosé a huge boost and provides the encouragement to know that we are on the right track in creating an English pink fizz that can compete with the best French Rosé Champagnes."

"The passion with which we grow our grapes and make our wine, combined with enormous attention to detail, has lead to us winning this prestigious award."

Christelle Guibert, Decanter's tastings director said it was a great result for the county.

She said: "This is a fantastic result for UK wines and further proof, should anyone need it, that home-produced bottles can compete at an international level."

"The raft of awards for England and Wales this year is testament to the world-class quality of locally produced wines. It is a delight to be able to showcase them in our globally recognised competition."

Kent did so well it has help convince the chairman of the awards, Steven Spurrier and his wife Bella, to pick the region to embark on their very own vineyard.

Mr Spurrier recognises the value of the Decanter World Wine Awards for UK vineyards, and said: "I feel this year the awards have moved from being a successful wine competition into an arena where it is a beacon for wine all around the world."

foodforkent.co.uk

KOS Campaign 2009



Raise a glass to cider

IT is one of the biggest events in Kent's apple calendar and this year's Cider Festival lurks just around the corner.

Apple-fuelled events will start at Brogdale Farm on September 19. With more than 98 cider apples and 20 perry pears in the National Fruit Collection, there promises to be an array of different tipples to taste and buy.

It should also be a great day out for all the family, with cooking demonstrations, tours of the National Fruit Collection, live music, mini railway, horse display and a hog roast.

For more information call 01795 536250 or visit www.brogdalecollections.co.uk.

Deli defies recession

ENJOY the best of Kent produce in the heart of Canterbury, at a brand new deli and cafe.

Husband and wife team Adrian and Tanya used all their savings to set up The Cathedral Deli.

"Despite little support from the banks due to the economic climate, worries from families and friends and giving up secure careers, we soldiered on," Tanya said. "Within the first few days the response to our little Kentish deli and cafe has been amazing and defied all our critics."

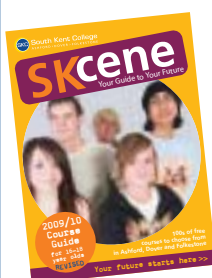
"We have been full every lunchtime and the public has loved the quality of the Kent products we use in our sandwiches and home cooking."

Their menu includes Kentish rarebit, a twist on the classic Welsh dish, which uses Ashmore Cheese from Cheese Makers of Canterbury and Shepherd Neame Spitfire Ale.

Another treat is shepherd's pie made with organic lamb mince from Monkshill Farm in Faversham and a Monmouth blend used in their coffees.

The deli can be found at 17b Burgate and is open from Monday to Saturday.

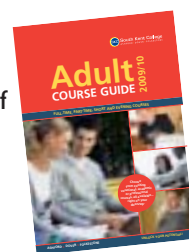
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SKcene Course Guide 2009/10 for 16-18 year-olds

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Find out about all the qualifications available at different levels to enable you to find employment or progress onto higher level courses.



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monday

STUDIO 1

08.30 - 09.15 **Boxercise**
09.30 - 10.30 **BLT Blitz**
10.30 - 11.30 **Hi/Lo**
Swiss Ball
11.40 - 12.40 **Body Combat**
14.30 - 15.30 **Young at Heart**
18.00 - 19.00 **Body Combat**
19.10 - 20.10 **Body Pump**
20.15 - 21.30 **Yoga**

SPIN STUDIO

06.45 - 07.30 **Early Spin**
09.30 - 10.15 **'Vibe' Spin**
20.15 - 21.00 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

12.15 - 13.45 **Yoga**
17.45 - 18.30 **Abs Stretch & Tone**
18.30 - 19.45 **Pilates**

AQUA

10.30 - 11.15 **Aqua**
19.30 - 20.15 **Aqua**

GYM

10.30 - 11.30 **Plan B**

tuesday

STUDIO 1

06.45 - 07.30 **Body Pump**
09.15 - 10.15 **Boxercise**
10.30 - 11.30 **Body Pump**
12.15 - 13.00 **Step**
18.00 - 19.00 **Step**
19.00 - 20.15 **Fitness Yoga**

SPIN STUDIO

11.45 - 12.30 **Advanced Spin**
18.00 - 18.30 **Begin to Spin**
19.00 - 19.45 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

09.45 - 11.15 **Yoga**
13.30 - 14.45 **Yoga**
20.00 - 20.45 **Glide & Sculpt**

AQUA

11.15 - 12.00 **Aqua Attack**

wednesday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.30 **BLT Blitz**
10.45 - 11.45 **Total**
Body Blast
14.30 - 15.30 **Young at Heart**
19.00 - 20.00 **Body Combat**
20.00 - 21.00 **Body Pump**

SPIN STUDIO

06.45 - 07.30 **Early Spin**
09.45 - 10.30 **Spin**
17.45 - 18.30 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

12.30 - 13.30 **Pilates**
13.30 - 14.30 **Chi Ball**
16.00 - 17.30 **Power Yoga**
18.00 - 19.00 **Stretch & Tone**
19.00 - 20.30 **Pilates**

AQUA

12.15 - 13.00 **Aqua**

thursday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.30 **Body Pump**
18.00 - 19.00 **Boxercise**
19.00 - 20.00 **Total**
Body Blast
20.00 - 21.00 **Swiss Ball Blitz**

SPIN STUDIO

08.00 - 08.45 **Spin**
11.30 - 12.15 **Spin**
19.30 - 20.15 **Advanced Spin**

MIND & BODY

09.45 - 11.15 **Yoga**
11.30 - 12.30 **Pilates**
18.00 - 19.00 **Pilates**

AQUA

11.30 - 12.15 **Aqua**
20.15 - 21.00 **Aqua**

GYM

20.15 - 21.15 **Plan B**

friday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.30 **Step**
10.30 - 11.30 **Body Combat**
14.30 - 15.30 **Young at Heart**
18.00 - 19.00 **Body Pump**

SPIN STUDIO

06.45 - 07.30 **Early Spin**
09.15 - 10.00 **Advanced Spin**
19.00 - 19.45 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

10.15 - 11.45 **Yoga**

AQUA

11.15 - 12.00 **Aqua Attack**

saturday

STUDIO 1

08.00 - 08.15 **Body Clinic**
08.15 - 09.15 **Body Combat**
09.30 - 10.30 **Body Pump**
13.00 - 14.00 **Fit Club**
(6-8 years)

SPIN STUDIO

13.00 - 13.45 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

08.15 - 09.00 **Abs, Stretch & Tone**
09.30 - 10.30 **Pilates**
11.30 - 12.30 **Pilates**

sunday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.00 **Ab Attack**
10.00 - 11.00 **Body Combat**

SPIN STUDIO

08.30 - 10.00 **Yoga**
10.15 - 11.00 **Spin**
17.00 - 18.00 **Spin & Abs**

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B

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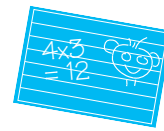


Shearway Business Park,
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01303 270888

B

Bannatyne's Health Club
www.bannatyne.co.uk



BREAK TIME

Jeremy returns to uni that helped him

GILLINGHAM graduate Jeremy Allison is set to train as a teacher after completing a degree in business administration.

The 26-year-old, who has MS, battled against his condition to gain a 2:1 qualification at the University of Greenwich.

He has now re-enrolled at the university on a post-graduate certificate of education course.

Jeremy said Greenwich played a large role in helping him complete his degree.

"I was studying at there in 2003 when I fell ill and had to give up my degree.

"Four years later I was able to resume my course and the university was very good about allowing me to do this.

"I found it very tiring commuting to Greenwich from Gillingham every day. But the university transferred me to study at Medway. The tutors were very supportive without making a fuss."



TEACHER TRAINING: Jeremy Allison

Your future is clear

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

WOULD-BE university students who want to take on courses at the start of the next academic year are being urged to apply through the clearing process.

The University of Greenwich is inviting learners to get in touch with the further education provider before the new term begins in September.

Head of recruitment Bev Woodhams said: "This is Clearing – the summer months when you can apply directly to the university for a place this year.

"There are lots of interesting courses, from environmental science through to media and tourism.

"We take on 5,000 students every year from



Grade-A A-level students through to people of all ages without formal qualifications.

"There is a range of different ways in, from full-time foundation degrees to part-time short courses. The best thing to do is to talk to us

and find out what's possible.

"So whatever your age or previous qualifications, if you've got it in you to study at a higher level, go on the website at www.gre.ac.uk or give us a ring on our hotline on 0800 005 006."

BEV'S TOP 10 TIPS:

1 Keep calm: There are still places at lots of universities. Extra places were created this year, so although more people are applying, there will be vacancies on many courses.

2 Check original choices first: If you just missed your required grades, don't despair. Contact your first-choice university and they may still offer you a place. If not, check out your second choice.

3 Be positive: If neither institution will confirm their offer, you are now a Clearing Applicant. You can call any higher education institution in the UK directly and ask if they will accept you on to a particular course with the qualifications you have.

4 Do your research: Don't panic and take the

first vacancy you see. The decision you make now will affect several years of your life. Search the papers and university websites for courses you are interested in and check their entry criteria. If you have the grades or points they require, or you are close, give them a call.

5 Be prepared: Before you phone, make a list of questions. Ask if you can speak to an academic (one of the teaching staff) about the course. Ensure you have the results of both your recent exams and your GCSEs to hand. Give several universities a ring to see what they can offer.

6 Check it out: Make time to visit. If you are serious about studying somewhere you need to know what it's like. You wouldn't buy a pair of shoes without trying them on, would you? Attend the open day or ask to arrange a visit.

7 Are you sure? Have you achieved better grades than expected, or changed your mind about the offer you hold? This year UCAS has introduced a five-day 'Adjustment period' from August 20. You can shop around, safe in the knowledge that if you don't find a place you prefer elsewhere, you still have your original offer.

8 Money, money, money: Have you applied for all the money you're entitled to? What bursaries and scholarships are on offer? Each year a huge amount goes unclaimed. This is free money so do research and see what's on offer.

9 Push the (TRACK) button: Once you are sure where and what you are going to study, you must confirm your decision online using UCAS Track. UCAS will let the institution know your decision.

10 Start getting excited: You are about to take your learning to another level, meet new people and have loads of new opportunities. Welcome to Higher Education.



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Tamiflu risks 'outweighed by benefits' urges doctor

CHILDREN with severe swine flu who do not take Tamiflu could face serious complications and even death, a leading family doctor has warned parents.

The antiviral medicine has been mired in controversy after two studies found more than half of youngsters who took the drug suffered side effects such as nausea and nightmares.

Another study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) suggested antiviral medication does not prevent complications, such as pneumonia and severe asthma, in children with flu.

But Dr Caroline Jessel, deputy medical director at NHS West Kent, urged parents to continue giving Tamiflu and other antivirals to their children if they are prescribed.

"If the child was quite unwell and I was a parent, then the risk of taking them is less than the risk of not taking Tamiflu and getting really ill with swine flu," she said.

Asked if there was a danger in parents not giving their children antivirals due to fears over side-effects, Dr Jessel said: "I think it would not be sensible to withhold it, particularly where they are severely affected."

"Some of the complications may well be prevented and the complications may be more severe and longer in duration [if Tamiflu is not taken]."

She said the number of patients being prescribed Tamiflu had fallen significantly in recent weeks, but the virus has not disappeared, she warned. NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent also said that the number of people with swine flu-like symptoms in its area had also decreased over the past week.

BY JENNA PUDELEK

"The research has thrown a different perspective on Tamiflu and helped us to understand its impact better," Dr Jessel added.

"It is not really relevant in a flu pandemic because it is based on seasonal flu. It is interesting but not necessarily going to change the advice."

"Our advice is still relatively straight forward – if symptoms are quite severe, obviously they need help and it is effective in reducing the duration and symptoms of the swine flu. For very mild cases it has always been the case not to give antivirals."

Matthew Thompson, author of the BMJ study, told New Scientist: "It may be worth the DoH taking the new research on board and perhaps having a more targeted approach to the use of antivirals, or urgently conducting randomised controlled trials of children and adults to identify whether there are subgroups of children who will benefit from antivirals."

Healthy children and babies under six months old will not be among those given the vaccine against swine flu, the Government has announced.

A mass immunisation campaign, which will target more than 11 million people, focused on those whose underlying health conditions put them at risk from the pandemic, will begin in October. The DoH said preparations were also being made to extend the programme.

Children have not been included in the first wave of vaccinations because although they are disproportionately affected by the virus, the vast majority make a full recovery.



GPs back access to records

DOCTORS in the county have supported proposals to allow the public to view and amend their medical records online.

The suggestion, put forward by the Conservatives this week, is part of plans to give patients more control over their records.

Patients would be able to log in online to access their records, add details and share experiences with other patients.

It would also provide a resource for those who have to monitor conditions on a daily basis, who could record their findings to produce a detailed record for their doctor.

Dr Mike Parks, from the Kent Local Medical Committee, said this resource would help doctors and patients alike.

"Importantly, for patients and doctors, it would also ensure medical information is up-to-date and correct," he said.

"But there would need to be some very careful safeguards in place."

It is hoped that by making access easier through the use of the internet, patients would be more likely to update their details in cases where they may normally wait until a visit to their GP.

Currently, patients have the rights under the Data Protection Act 1998 to inspect medical records. However, access often has to be applied for in writing first of all, with a payment usually required, £10 for computerised records or £50 for manual records.

Fears of poor wheat harvest

FARMERS across the county are bracing themselves for another potentially devastating wheat harvest that could cost the industry millions of pounds.

The recent poor weather has defied predictions of "a barbecue summer" and left many farmers fearing big losses.

Last year's harvest was dubbed "the worst in living memory" according to Kent's National Farmers' Union chairman Kevin Attwood.

The Downcourt Farm manager from Doddington, near Faversham, expressed concern that a repeat of 2008's harvests would have major implications.

He said: "It will make life very difficult for farmers if wheat crops are too wet and can't be used for milling."

"This means the value of them drops by 40 per cent from £130 a tonne to £90 a tonne and



they have to be used for animal feed. Wet wheat has to be dried artificially which also adds to farmers' costs considerably."

Sandra Nichols, NFU South East policy advisor shared his concerns over this season's crops – she believed the next few weeks would prove critical.

She said: "Last year's harvest in particular was very bad. With the added costs of replacing machinery and equipment, things have been very tough."



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your shepway blogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Shepway...

It's time to honour promise made to Suez Canal veterans

IN January 1952, the General Officer Commanding Egypt, General Sir Brian Robertson, recommended a campaign medal for British forces taking part in the crisis in the Suez Canal in 1951.

That recommendation was never considered by the Army Council.

In July 2002, Tony Blair announced that a sub-committee would be set up to consider the question of a campaign medal, and appointed General Lord Guthrie as chairman.

General Guthrie then selected his own committee. The most notable absentee was a representative from the Royal Navy.

General Guthrie inferred that the Royal Navy had a minimal role at Suez, whereas the Royal Navy deployed more warships in Suez in October 1951 than were deployed during the Korean War or the Falklands War and, as

such, was exposed to much the same danger as the Army and RAF.

In June 2003, the Guthrie Committee agreed that a campaign medal should have been awarded and that those who served in the Suez Canal between 1951 and 1954 for a period of 30 or more days should be eligible.

The committee's discussion – whether those 30 days should be aggregated or continuous – was not part of the sub-committee's recommendations.

The Ministry of Defence was asked to recommend the eligibility criteria. Its report recommended that service could be aggregated.

In the Cabinet Office in August 2003, the Ceremonial Officer, Gay Catto, without authority from General Guthrie's sub-committee, altered 'aggregated' to read 'continuous' before submitting the resulting White Paper for approval by HM The Queen and presentation to Parliament in October 2003.

Mrs Catto's actions subsequently denied a huge number of Royal Navy veterans the

award they so richly deserved.

We have raised the 'continuous' question with local MPs and questioned various Secretaries of State for Defence and Veterans Ministers – I believe that we have been lied to and betrayed by the government of the day.

We have asked General Guthrie twice, in writing, if he agreed with Mrs Catto's action in altering the MOD's recommendations and twice, in writing, he has failed to do so.

We suspect the Cabinet Office is more interested in protecting the reputation of a now-retired civil servant than in honouring Royal Navy veterans, all now aged 75 or over.

The Government should honour the 2003 promise that ALL British servicemen who served in the Suez Canal between 1951 and 1954 would be awarded a General Service Medal.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on **01303 817022**, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Shepway blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.yourshpway.co.uk.

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yourcompetition

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DISCOVER Bluezoo, the exciting new childrenswear range at Debenhams. Everyday clothing that is modern, fashionable, durable and good value, from baby to 12 yrs, they have ranges for play, day and partywear.

Introduced to compliment the existing designer brands, Bluezoo caters for the fashionable, yet price-conscious consumers who are looking for modern, trend-led, affordable products that are high quality.

For boys, denim is a wardrobe essential. Jeans in authentic washes and fits make up the backbone of the range, teamed with a wide selection of cool graphic tees, jersey layering pieces, shirts, knitwear and outerwear. Age appropriate graphics include robots, tools and monsters for toddlers through to cheeky slogans, dinosaurs and all things 'rock' for the younger boy. Colour palettes are fun and wearable, mixing up a range of bluetones from navy to turquoise with 'on trend' primary brights.

For girls, the range mixes essential and trend focussed denim pieces with fashion forward products in the latest silhouettes. These include graphic tees, woven and jersey tops, dresses, knitwear and outerwear. The Bluezoo girls offer includes three different styles – Sporty, Pretty and London Girl.

Sporty Girl is all about fun weekend dressing, bright colours, fun stripes and patterns. The statement shapes are easy to wear – cute graphic or character tees, layered with sweats and knits worn with embellished authentic denim to give that fun bright look.

Pretty Girl is a softer colour palette with feminine pretty shapes including the prom

WIN! £150 to spend on Bluezoo childrenswear

dress and the layered skirt mixed up with cute tees and knitwear.

London Girl is the most fashion forward of the three looks and includes catwalk inspired shapes, funky prints and cool graphic tees mixed with new denim.

Yourlocal has teamed up with Debenhams to offer two lucky readers £150 each to spend on Childrenswear in either Debenhams Canterbury or Folkestone.

To enter, simply answer the question below pop along to Debenhams Folkestone or Canterbury and give your entry in at the children's department or send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Blue Zoo Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is August 31, 2009.

Question: What is the name of the new make of childrenswear in Debenhams?

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry

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- 1 Entries must be received by 5.30pm on Monday, August 31.
- 2 The winning entry will be drawn on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 and the winner will be notified by telephone by Wednesday, September 2, 2009
- 3 The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 4 The prize will be £150 to spend on any own bought, full price Childrenswear merchandise from Debenhams Canterbury and Folkestone stores only.
- 5 There is no cash prize alternative to the stated prize and the competition is restricted to UK residents only. No purchase necessary.
- 6 The prize is not valid against the purchase of financial services, Debenhams food services, cash, gift vouchers or giftcards or in payment of any outstanding balance on your Debenhams account.
- 7 Only one entry per person.
- 8 No one associated with the promotion or employees of the Debenhams PLC Group of companies or employees of KOS Media are

eligible to enter.

9 Persons under the age of 18 are not eligible to enter.

10 The winner must redeem the prize by Tuesday, September 8, 2009.



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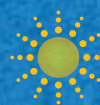


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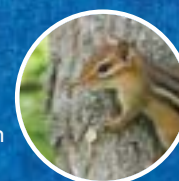
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your letters



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YOUR LETTERS

Don't let painting just waste away

The August 5 edition of Yourshepway carried a story headlined 'King of Belgium revealed at last', referring to the oil-painting 'The Landing of the Belgium Refugees, August 1914'.

This picture was painted and presented by Signor Fredo Franzoni to the people of Folkestone in 1916.

The painting used to be seen in the hallway of Kent County Council's library and museum in Folkestone until it was damaged and removed from public display.

Then, early this year, it was moved out of Grace Hill and now hangs in one of the rooms of The Grand in Folkestone.

I was interested to see that the



REAL DEAL: The King and Queen of Belgium

bottom part of the picture published with the article had been chopped off.

This covered up another story:

If you look closely at the 5in x 2in picture, you can just see that the sunlight has caught and highlighted the beginning of the substantial wrinkles that have been forming at the bottom of the painting.

This painting needs urgent restoration work; it is over 7ft (226cm) high and just under 11ft (324cm) in length, and almost 100 years old.

The weight of the canvas and oil-paint is now proving too much for the fragile canvas to take and is seemingly tearing at the top where the canvas is attached to its wooden frame. This was reported to KCC staff, along with other damage, some years ago.

Also it was brought to the attention of councillors, and then to our Member of Parliament, who was recently informed by KCC in May this year that "We are currently working with the town council to seek funding for the restoration work".

Perhaps, now that Yourshepway has brought this painting to the attention of the public, that interest in this painting can be kept up and the funds that KCC apparently claims it has not got could be found to refurbish the painting.

As for the claim that the King of Belgium is portrayed in the painting, the attached First World War photograph was taken on board the destroyer HM Attentive, of the Dover Patrol, in which the King and Queen of Belgium can be seen on deck during a Channel crossing.

It seems there is little similarity between the King of Belgium and

the person in the painting whom some thought looked liked him.

Furthermore, according to the artist, the gentleman standing on the left of Sir Stephen Penfold, Mayor of Folkestone, in the painting is not the King of Belgium – but Monsieur A Peterson, Belgian Vice-Consul.

**Christopher Conn
Folkestone**

Store open day was wasted opportunity

With everyone looking at the development of Dover and the future of its shopping and image, I as much as anyone was glad to hear that new supermarkets are investing in our town.

Unfortunately, I, along with many others, been made redundant and was pleased to see Morrisons advertising for management.

The advert was a third of a page and asked people to come along to find out more about the company and to introduce ourselves.

I took the time to put on my best suit, pay for parking, take my CV and covering letter, with the opportunity to sell myself to the company which I feel will bring a lot to our town.

It was with great disappointment that I found the whole process to be a quick process of 'Where did you see the advert and here is an application form – please fill it in and hand back'.

Being in retail management for more than 20 years and having some pre-thought, I had already been online and filled out this form.

On telling the staff there I had already done this, they said "Well, that's all we need".

I was amazed – no chance to

introduce ourselves or show how we could fit in to the company.

It really did turn the whole process into an application-form lottery as the form is not very diverse and nor does not give much space to show your ability.

The whole process not only shows little commitment from Morrisons to finding the right people to work at the store in Dover but also to all those who took the time and patience to attend a well-advertised open day to try to find employment or further their career prospects.

Let us all hope that as a large retail food store, it will take more notice of the shopping needs and service requirements of the town's people when it does open.

**Name and address
supplied to the editor**

Airport story: claim was never made

In reply to the report on page 4 of the July 29 edition of Yourshepway, I have to respond and take issue with the three main points.

The headline 'Councillors are backing us, claim airport supporters'... this is not true and the claim was never made.

The letter sent out by myself to Shepway councillors at no time called for their support but was to ask them to look at and draw their attention to points in planning law and the way the two planning applications have been dealt with by the planning officers.

As a member of FLAG (Friends of Lydd Airport), at no time did I claim that councillors had expressed privately their desire to see the two applications approved.

What I did say was that I was encouraged by the response from

the number of councillors who had taken the time to acknowledge my letter.

It would be a betrayal of confidence to state in public any comments made by a Shepway councillor on the two airport applications and, more importantly, it would exclude them from voting.

The very thing that FLAG has always tried to do to the best of its ability is to maintain the upmost credibility and integrity in all matters relating to the airport redevelopment... something that cannot be said for a number of opposition groups.

**Brian Godfrey (member of FLAG)
Lyminge**

Creative ideas that are the way ahead

It was good to read that the Folkestone Creative Quarter regeneration scheme is still going ahead despite the economic gloom.

These sorts of downturns are caused largely by businesses losing their confidence and withdrawing contracts, thus causing other companies to suffer difficulties.

It is full marks for the people behind the plans to improve our town that they are going ahead in this way and not losing faith.

If more businesses were adopting this approach, the recession would not have gripped nearly so hard.

Also it makes for extremely good business sense.

If more building companies are charging less and less because the work is not out there, it really does make sense to take advantage of that fact.

**Ian Harris
by email**

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There's allot of need for more land

Kent Green Party is calling on all councils in Kent and Medway to amend their Local Development Framework documents to allocate more land to allotments.

People are buying more seeds for growing than ever before.

Similarly, demand for allotments is growing so fast that waiting lists mean people may wait decades for an allotment.

When people are responding to the recession by trying to grow more of their own food, we need councils to step in and increase the amount of land available for allotments.

Kent Green Party wants all the local councils in Kent to allocate more land to allotments under their Local Development Frameworks.

A typical allotment in the UK attracts 30 applicants and will save a user about £950 a year on food.

Recent research suggests six million people in the UK would like an allotment but there are only about 206,000 allotment plots.

Kent Green Party suggests councils look for new allotment sites. Industrial-estate land empty more than two years could be put to better use.

Allotments are a much better use of some flood-prone sites than is housing.

And what about agricultural land next to urban areas?

There is ample evidence of demand

for allotments throughout Kent.

Also, under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, councils have a duty to provide allotments where there is demand for them in their area.

Dr Hazel Dawe
Kent Green Party

Running your breast for cancer charity

It's back – the Adidas Women's 5K Challenge is returning to London next month and Breast Cancer Campaign wants you on its Guardian Angels team.

Thousands of women will descend on Hyde Park for the 5K race on Sunday, September 6, and the charity wants to encourage runners to fly around the course while raising money for breast cancer research.

By joining the Guardian Angels team, named after the campaign's breast awareness ambassador, every runner will receive a pair of pink fairy wings, a professional Ronhill running vest and support throughout their training.

Last year, 456 runners joined our Guardian Angels team and raised more than £38,000 for breast cancer research.

If you would like to become a Guardian Angel, please phone 020 7749 3700 or email womenschallenge@breastcancercampaign.org.

Cecilia Owen, Guardian Angels leader for Breast Cancer Campaign

Don't let meningitis be misdiagnosed

I lost my young daughter to meningitis and was extremely concerned to read the news of two-year-old Georgia Keeling.

She was misdiagnosed with swine flu and died from meningitis just three hours later.

Doctors thought my daughter Jessica, also two, had a gastric infection and she died from the disease the very next day.

Sadly, both their deaths show how difficult it is to confuse meningitis with less deadly and more common diseases such as flu.

Hearing how Georgia died from meningitis just three hours after paramedics gave her Tamiflu should hopefully remind people how important it is to know the symptoms of meningitis and not confuse it with illnesses like swine flu.

In babies, an unusual cry, dislike of being handled and refusing feeds can indicate meningitis.

Other signs include a headache, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights, cold hands and feet, fever, vomiting, confusion and drowsiness.

If you suspect something is seriously wrong with your child, then please persist and make sure they get the treatment they deserve.

Please call the charity on 0117 373 7373 or visit www.meningitisuk.org for a free information pack.

Kelly Crisp
Broxbourne



Visit your vet for a **FREE dental check-up & goody bag**



During September over 1,500 veterinary practices will be providing **FREE dental check-ups** for dogs.

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Now lasers can help you stop smoking

Canterbury Skin and Laser

LASERS are used in a wide range of medical procedures - and now they can help you stop smoking.

The Canterbury Skin & Laser Clinic has introduced a new treatment to help smokers cut out the deadly weed.

Dr Alice Hudson-Peacock runs the centre, which can tackle virtually any problem of skin, and has beauty therapists to provide a full range of beauty treatments.

Stopping smoking is one more thing people are trying to do now, but is one of the most

hardest to actually follow and conquer.

Dr Hudson-Peacock said: "We are delighted to introduce Nicolite to the clinic - a revolutionary low-powered laser, which is clinically proven to help stop smoking. The low level laser light when absorbed in points of the body can stimulate releases of endorphins the body's natural pain killers.

"It effectively replicates the effect that nicotine has on the body's thereby reducing cravings."

In a recent clinical trial in Middlesex University, 70 per cent of these treated with the laser stopped smoking. Clinical results showed that Nicolite treatments are up to six times more effective than Nicotine patches.

"It works on the same principle as acupuncture," said Dr Hudson-Peacock. "Boosting the endorphins helps deal with the physical symptoms of withdrawal. Obviously you still need the willpower, but it should take just two sessions 24 hours apart."

The clinic had also recently added a Palomar Starlux laser system. Dr Hudson-Peacock said it was a major addition to their range of lasers used for hair and tattoos removal, thread veins and age spots removal. They can also be used to deal with loose skin around the neck and jowls, as well as acne, scares and wrinkles.

Canterbury Skin and Laser Clinic, Castle Street, Canterbury. 01227 472288

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Anti-cellulite treatments are also available and non-surgical facelifts are becoming more and more popular, while the range of Susan Molyneux environmentally-friendly products are a constant seller.

The business is well established in the centre of Folkestone, which means there is an

excellent opportunity for office workers and other people working in the town to use the facilities at lunchtime.

A muscle toning system is also on offer which uses the proven Hawkins EBA machines.

These toning beds mimic the muscle movements which occur during exercise and can be placed on whatever part of the body needs to be toned up, tightening sagging muscles and visibly decreasing unwanted inches. In summer toning beds are extremely popular and special discounted rates are offered for wedding packages.

The salon is open on Monday from 9am to 4pm, Tuesday 10am to 5pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 8pm, Friday 10am to 6pm and Saturday 10am to 5pm.

Loyalty cards and introduce a friend schemes are also available and all treatment courses are currently on a buy one, get one free basis.

Be a Beauty Ltd, 32A Bouverie Square, Folkestone CT20 1BA, babeauty@btconnect.com

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Best results are achieved from waxing if treatments are kept up on a regular basis to weaken the hair follicles and reduce regrowth. Exfoliation in between reduces the likelihood of ingrowing hairs
Phone no: 01303 255415

White House, Deal

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HERNE BAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 22, to
Sunday, August 30
Various venues, Herne Bay



COCKNEY legends Chas 'n' Dave are among the highlights of this year's Herne Bay Festival.

The hugely popular duo will be performing a concert of their greatest hits, such as Rabbit, Ain't No Pleasing You and Sideboard Song, as the headline act at Rock Around The Clock on Saturday, August 29.

Local bands have the chance to appear on the bill by competing in a competition being run during the festival. The lucky winners will receive studio time and recordings worth £500, as well as the chance to support Chas 'n' Dave at the concert.

There will be plenty of opportunities for audience participation at Let's Dance, a fun-filled day of free dance demonstrations which opens the festival this Saturday. A shimmering twilight procession with a sea theme will make its way along the seafront on Saturday evening, before a spectacular firework display marks the festival's official opening.

Sunday sees more family fun at the Cherry Orchard playing field, along with a coastal ramble, sailing demonstration race at the pier and more sailing action at the Memorial Park lake.

Whether people want to demonstrate their building prowess in the sandcastle competition, fly a kite or take part in the family cycle ride along the coast, there are lots of ways to get involved in the festival.

Teenagers will not be left out of the fun as music workshops have been arranged just for them.

Young people aged 12 and above are invited to take part in a free workshop at the ACF Drill Hall on Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29, when they can tell stories about their favourite hang-outs and work with artists to set them to music.

The results will be uploaded at www.whatareyoudoinghere.co.uk to



create a virtual map showing the best places to hang out in the district.

Teenagers can also take part in the Freestylin' @ the Bay urban workshops, which take place at various venues, encompassing graffiti art, street dance, clothes customising and more, followed by a showcase event at the Bandstand on Friday, August 28.

With children's, sports and arts events also on offer, along with performances by MAD project winners, Katy Hirst and Rhiannon Lane, there is something to suit every interest.

Full festival listings can be found on the website at www.hernebayfestival.co.uk or in the free programmes.

To request a copy, phone 01227 862201, or alternatively email cassy.fry@canterbury.gov.uk.



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GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

Sunday, August 30
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



AN EVENING of musical nostalgia is in store when the Glenn Miller Orchestra revisits Shepway.

The brand new show, Back to the 40s, promises to capture the magic of the big band era in one evening of musical entertainment. An array of talented performers will be appearing in the show, creating a spectacular nostalgic experience.

SANDWICH FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 23, to Monday, August 31
Various venues, Sandwich



FROM fun runs and films to Beethoven and birds, there are events to suit a wide variety of tastes during the Sandwich Festival.

The excitement gets underway on Sunday with 10km and 6km runs from The Quay at 10am. St Bart's Patronal Festival will be followed by the Bun Run on Monday, while Wednesday's highlights include an appearance by author Mary Berg at The Sandwich Bookshop and a chess tournament at the Sandwich Guildhall.

The Becker Symphony Orchestra will perform the festival concert at St Mary's Church next Thursday and there will be West End musical cabaret at the same venue on Friday. A circus workshop, jazz jamming session, illuminated boat display, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory open day, firework display and much more can be enjoyed during the bank holiday weekend.

From this Monday to bank holiday Monday, The Secret Gardens of Sandwich will play host to an exhibition of 35 contemporary stone sculptures. There will also be live sculpting going on in the gardens.

Festival listings can be found online at www.visitkent.co.uk.



SIMON BIRD

Saturday, September 5
Quarterhouse, Folkestone



BRIGHT young comedy star Simon Bird will be winning over the crowd at the Quarterhouse next month.

As the star of E4's BAFTA-nominated sitcom, The Inbetweeners, Bird plays a former private school student who is suddenly moved to the sixth form at the local comprehensive. Along with three other misfits, he is not geeky enough to be a nerd or popular enough to be a trendy kid, so he finds himself caught somewhere in between.

But Bird should have no problems being appreciated in Shepway. He won the Best Male Newcomer gong at the British Comedy Awards last year and has received much critical acclaim for his live shows. He has performed in Edinburgh as a member of the comedy trio House of Windsor, and now he visits Kent with his new stand-up show, Simon Bird Presents An Experimental Game Show.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10. To book, phone 01303 858500 or visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

SHEPWAY LEISURE

Guitarist back at hotel for weekly jazz night

THE Pete Abbott Group returns to The Grand for another evening of live jazz.

Every Thursday, jazz fans can enjoy live music in Keppels Music Room at the hotel in The Leas, Folkestone. This week guitarist Abbott is joined by Mike Austin on sax, Clive Fletcher on bass, Roger Jeffery on drums and vocalist Claire Harris. The concert starts at 8.30pm and admission costs £5. Call 01303 260330.

Funfair and fireworks as fête takes to water

ENJOY entertainment on the water when the Venetian Fête takes place on Hythe Canal tonight.

The five-hour show starts at 4pm, with attractions on and around the Royal Military Canal. From floating tableaux and bands to a children's fun fair and firework display finale, there is lots to entertain all the family.

For more information visit the website at www.venetian-fete.com.

Artists join musicians to display their work

LOCAL musicians and artists will be displaying their talents at Zig Zag Art and The Big Gig this weekend.

Saturday's event at the Amphitheatre and Zig Zag Cave in Coastal Park, Folkestone, offers music, artwork, a children's art workshop, face painting and the Hendrix Woz Here video. The event runs from 10am to 5pm. Go to www.folkestoneartists.org.uk.

Echoes of Pink Floyd as tribute band rock pub

EXPERIENCE the sights, sounds and atmosphere of a Pink Floyd gig when a dedicated tribute band visits Folkestone.

Just Floyd uses a full light show, projected animations, lasers and more to recreate an authentic Floyd concert. Find out more at www.justfloyd.co.uk.

The band is at The Frenchman in Christchurch Road on Friday. For details, phone the pub on 01303 259815.

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IN STORE

Ghostly signing of new Ancient Darkness book

BEST-SELLING children's author Michelle Paver will launch the final book in her Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series this weekend.

She will attend a book-signing at Waterstone's, Bluewater, at noon on Sunday, when fans can buy her new novel, Ghost Hunter.

Ghost Hunter is published by Orion Children's Books and priced at £10.99. For more information, call the store on 01322 624831.

Picture-perfect look at county's motoring past

CAR-lovers will be fascinated by a new book on the history of motoring in Kent.

From the earliest days of The Horseless Carriage Exhibition to the vehicles of the Second World War, this interesting book uses 300 black-and-white images to illustrate its story.

Written by Tim Harding and Bryan Goodman, Motoring Around Kent: The First Fifty Years is published by Amberley and priced at £12.99.

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IF a perfect beach body is proving elusive, Transform Maidstone can help you get in shape for your holiday.

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Natural Aussie skincare launches at Debenhams

AUSTRALIA'S fastest-growing beauty brand, Natio, is now available in Kent.

With expertise developed over four generations, the range of skincare and cosmetics has evolved from a family business over 75 years. Ingredients are derived from plant extracts and essential oils to create pure, gentle skincare.

Natio products are available from Debenhams in Chatham and Gravesend. To celebrate the launch, the stores are offering a Launch Value Set worth £45. The set includes six products and retails at just £20.

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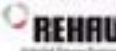


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Farmhouse celebrates first birthday as Format returns

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

PARTY poppers, streamers and gifts at the ready, music fans – The Farmhouse is set to celebrate its first birthday later this month.

The Canterbury venue will turn one on Saturday, August 22, and has lined up one of the country's finest turntable connoisseurs in DJ Format to help set the anniversary proceedings off.

The Southampton-born DJ burst onto the hip hop scene six years ago with his critically-acclaimed debut release *Music for the Mature B-Boy*.

If you don't know the album, hunt a copy down. But before you do, make sure you take a peek at the video for Format's most famous hit, *We Know Something You Don't Know*, featuring Jurassic 5 MCs Chali 2na and Akil.

That's if fluffy breakdancing animals are your thing.

But back to the birthday bash.

The Farmhouse's Matt Gough said he was looking forward to the big night.

"The rather wonderful DJ Format was one of the best DJs we had at The Farmhouse during our first year so we're delighted to announce that he'll be bringing the dusty breaks, rare grooves, soul classics and the rawest of rock and r'n'b to the party for us.

"He's genuinely one of the nicest guys in hip hop, something of a British legend and rapidly becoming a Canterbury favourite after some scintillating performances both at Lounge On The Farm and The Farmhouse."

Support on the night comes from



BIRTHDAY GUESTS: DJ Format, above, will be at the gig, while Casiokids, right, will be performing later this year

Comfyporn, DJ Shallow and Readybreak.

Farmhouse chiefs have wasted no time in booking up acts to perform during their second year of business, with the calendar up to Christmas already boasting a host of top music names.

These include Don Letts, The Dub Pistols, Casiokids, Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir and the James Taylor Quartet.

The birthday gig runs from 9pm to 2am. Entry costs £6. For more information and listings visit www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.



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ALL ABOUT THEM: Top boyband McFly perform at Rochester Castle Gardens



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- 2 The Suspects - 29/8 The New Inn, Minster-in-Thames
- 3 Backburner - 12/9 The Park Inn, Folkestone
- 4 Salvador Charlie - 18/9 Barnaby Rudge, Broadstairs
- 5 Euston - 25/9 The Hop Inn, St Margarets

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

WOULD I LIE TO YOU?
BBC One, 10.35pm, Monday
THE TROUBLE WITH GIRLS
BBC Two

THERE are a lot of shows that have emulated the well-worn formula of Have I Got News For You.

You know the drill, three reasonably smart, funny people rib all and sundry for half an hour of easy watching.

Nevermind the Buzzcocks has ploughed the same furrow and there have been others such as Mock the Week and Channel 4's Jimmy Carr-fronted Eight Out of Ten Cats.

Both are decent enough shows, but occasionally veer into who can shout the loudest territory, which can get irritating.

Better than both those shows is Would I Lie to You?, which has returned for a new run.

Influenced as much by Call My Bluff as HIGNFY, this is smarter and less shouty than its two main rivals.

The panellists tell tall stories about their own lives with a few bona fide truths thrown in for good measure.

The opposing team must guess what is true and what is a load of old flannel and new host Rob Brydon, who has taken over from Angus Deayton, chips in with enough funnies of his own.

But it is David Mitchell who is the star of the show, as he is on most things he appears on.

His skew on the world, showcased to excellent effect in Peep Show, has something of Old Englishness about it that is very charming, very funny and very familiar to those of us who also feel exasperated and bewildered by the modern world.

LAST week's BBC Two documentary



GAME'S UP: Rob Brydon (centre) hosts Would I Lie to You? with David Mitchell and Lee Mack

The Trouble With Girls was probably the best documentary I've seen in years.

Charting the lives of three young Rochdale lasses struggling to make their way in life it was moving in parts and frustrating in others.

There were parts where you really started to feel sorry for the girls, who often seemed trapped by their own situations.

Two of them had their hearts set on military service, but were rejected by the Army because they suffered with cirrhosis.

However, for every thing that made you feel sorry for the girls, you could feel sympathy ebbing away when they announced they were pregnant yet again, after failing to use any contraception, only adding to their financial and housing woes.

This was quite hard to watch at times, but a real insight into the lives and the fate of so many of young people in this country today, nonetheless.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU'LL have to fill out a lot of paperwork if you're going to get a loan or refund. It's a bore, but that's the hurdle you have to jump. You might as well get it out of the way as soon as possible. A misunderstanding between you and an authority figure makes life confusing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

IT'S important to take your artistic talent seriously. There's a lot more to you than making money. If you'd like to do something glamorous for a living the possibility is there. Granted, you'll have to take a pay cut, but that's better than being miserable all of the time.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

CREATING a budget is essential to your financial health. You need to be more careful about how you spend your money. Take things slowly with somebody who has just caught your interest. Don't go public with until you're sure about your feelings for each other.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

JOINING a professional organisation could boost your job prospects. When it comes to work, who you know is just as important as what you know. Your boss could hand you an unpleasant task. Don't waste any time complaining; just get it over and done with as quickly as possible.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

IF you want to launch a business, team up with someone who has had lots of experience in this field. They have lots of great advice and plenty of potential packed tips for running a profitable venture. Don't tell colleagues about your plans or they'll start to resent you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

IT'S time for a serious talk with a relative. They need to hear an honest opinion. You could be vulnerable to a powerful personality who seems to have all the answers. Actually, their motives are pretty suspect. Under no circumstances should you give them money.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOUR words have tremendous weight this week. If you think an authority figure is on the wrong track, speak now or forever hold your peace. Take care of your emotional health. Surrounding yourself with positive people will prevent depression from setting in.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU could be up for a job review so be open to your boss's views and suggestions. Nobody is perfect; there is always room for improvement. If you're going on a job interview, do some preparation. Research the company in question. This will show you are someone who does their homework.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

ANXIETY over work could be getting you down. You need to find a creative and relaxing outlet. Taking a short trip to see a friend will also be a lot of fun. Trust your instincts when it comes to a female relative. This woman could use a little tender loving care and nurturing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU may have to add to your qualifications to boost your professional prospects. This won't be an easy ride; your bosses and instructors will be very exacting. As far as love is concerned you're a little worried. The object of your affection is so desirable that it's hard to fight off rivals.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

KEEP your fears to yourself. If you need an outlet for pent up anxieties write them in a diary. Right now, you can't afford to let people see you sweat. A friend who is head over heels in love may keep breaking appointments. You've got to make them accountable for their behaviour.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

DEEP philosophical matters are weighing on your heart. You're tired of money being the driving force in your life. If you're deep in debt, find out how much you owe and figure out a plan for paying your bills. It may take a while, but at least you'll be working to change things for the better.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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MONEY MATTERS



Recession: Things are looking up

Inside your pull-out supplement

- Signs the recession is beginning to slow
- Why credit cards are an economic headache
- Have you been mis-sold a PPI policy?
- Research reveals shocking rise in fraud
- What one council is doing to help business
- Corporate retail property – the low-down
- Cashing in on your old gold
- A good time to buy a new car
- Recession-busting motoring
- Scrappage scheme goes full throttle
- Road tax: the best ways to save

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what's inside

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With many of us suffering from reduced incomes and unemployment on the increase, we look at the new fear that credit-card debts could trigger more economic suffering

Page 6-7

With all the confusion around Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in recent months, we help you educate yourself on what it is, whether you need it, and how to ensure that you are not being mis-sold to

Page 8

Money fraud is at its highest level in decades. We discover how the recession has led to the financial crime rate almost doubling in a year in the South East

Page 10-11

Find out what one council is doing to help businesses with a series of counter-recessionary measures, including a scheme to support graduates and a programme of business start-up grants

Page 12

David Garrard, associate director and retail negotiator working out of the Maidstone office of Christie + Co reveals why this

sector is less susceptible than businesses in other areas of the economy as the down-turn does its worst

Pages 14-15

When you see full-page adverts claim the price of gold has soared 30 per cent in the past six months alone, it isn't only those facing big debts or mortgage arrears who are tempted to turn old heirlooms and unwanted gifts into cash. Take a look at the returns...

Page 16

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge when you drive away a new car

thanks to big discounts at the moment

Page 17

Downsizing to a more fuel and tax efficient car is just one way you can save money. Steve Loader gives more tips on cheaper motoring

Page 18

The Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive is purring like a sports car with talk of a top-up donation, so get your order in now if you fancy swapping your banger

Page 19

Don't rush to change your car for one with less tax. There are other things to consider first...

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Lexterten Furniture in Westgate on Sea is offering £100 off elevating TV cabinets

■ Oliver Carpets Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering 10 per cent off when you spend more than £600

■ Maidstone Kia in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering dine in the Verve Grill and upgrade a 6oz fillet steak to an 8oz or a 10oz sirloin for the same price

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all lift and rise chairs, and motion beds

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, saving you time and money and using up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free tomato and mozzarella flatbread when you buy a bottle of rose wine in the Victory pub

■ Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering five per cent off all bikes

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent off all food and beverages

■ Robins and Day Maidstone Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.99 services, and MOTs from £119.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Signs of economic life spotted

UNEMPLOYMENT is on the rise, but there are also a few signs that the economic situation may be on the turn – or at least it may not be getting worse at quite the same rate.

In this issue of Money Matters we hear from one expert on the retail sector who says many businesses are holding their own, and why the commercial property sector is still attracting plenty of buyers.

That's not to say that individuals and businesses aren't in need of some help, and in the coming pages there are details of

schemes offering assistance, and plenty of good advice to help you keep on top of your own financial affairs.

And to raise a smile during the summer months, visit vouchersforkent.co.uk where there are hundreds of money-saving offers waiting for you.

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and servicing; leisure, food and drink; retail trades and services; and Canterbury Independent Traders.

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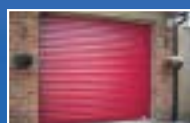
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Card debts set to cause even more financial headaches

By JEREMY GATES

WITH unemployment expected to top four million and many households already suffering from reduced income, there are fears that massive credit-card debts could trigger more economic turmoil.

Britain, where consumer debt in proportion to income has climbed above 170 per cent, is seen as more vulnerable to such a crisis than European countries and the United States, where the International Monetary Fund fears 14 per cent of consumer debt will turn sour.

The IMF believes consumer debt losses in Europe could hit £1.5bn – much of it in Britain.

A lot of this debt, such as sub-prime mortgages, was securitised – passed on to new

holders – and the Financial Times warned that the impact could extend beyond banks, possibly hitting insurance companies and pension funds.

Our plastic-fuelled spending spree is unravelling fast. Outstanding card debt tops £64 billion, but with average interest rates at 18 per cent – or 36 times current Bank base rate – that's a big strain on the 40 per cent of card-holders who pay interest on outstanding balances.

Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk believes that card companies may have kept their rates high in defence against the looming problems.

He said: "If the debt situation worsens, rates could top 18 per cent. I see big write-offs coming, as an increasing trend."

Over two years, the noose has slowly drawn tighter on those who have overspent. The old trick – keep switching debt to new cards with 0 per cent balance transfers – is harder to pull off as providers tighten terms.

Capital One, a leading provider, has withdrawn 0 per cent balance transfers altogether. Barclaycard's 0 per cent offer on balance



MOUNTING DEBT: If people's debt situation worsens, rates could top 18 per cent

transfers is down from 14 months to 12 and other providers – including Royal Bank of Scotland and its brands, and HSBC – restrict balance transfers to existing customers.

“Nearby everybody who could qualify for Virgin Money’s 0 per cent balance transfer for 16 months has probably got it by now,” Hagger says. “It’s been the first port of call for a long time.”

Hagger notes that a few products remain for clients with good credit records: Santander’s 0 per cent balance transfers runs for 15 months, while two others offer 0 per cent for 13 months – Halifax Mastercard and BT Visa Credit Card.

Daniella Lipszyc, solicitor and director at Ultimate Law, which advises card-holders in trouble, fears that some consumers face 50 years of suffocating debt.

“Introductory offers, such as 0 per cent balance transfers and 0 per cent APR for the first few months, get consumers signed up,” she says.

“Many don’t realise that once the initial period of the agreement ends, rates can rocket and interest payments can get out of hand.

“It takes almost 50 years to clear a debt of £5,000 by making the minimum repayment each month, on a typical APR of 16.9 per cent. Over that time, you’ll pay a staggering £10,773.93 in interest.”

Lipszyc argues that no

signed and properly executed agreements were completed for many new cards. Some lenders see this will cause problems if cases go to court and are hiring debt collectors to pressurise clients at home and at work.

“One of my clients has card debts of more than £150,000, but £10,000 is enough to get many into trouble,” she says.

Card providers, for their part, are also under pressure: they have lost rich pickings from the sale of Payment Protection Insurance with cards due to new regulations, and have seen penalty charges, which they levy on late payers, cut by Government action.

Spending power

But they can always raise rates. Lipszyc believes card providers have “terrific freedoms” despite the new controls.

“My husband had an AMEX card charging 19.6 per cent which jumped to 26 per cent – a 33 per cent rise – a few days after Bank base rate hit 0.5 per cent,” she says.

As problems deepen, Lipszyc thinks providers may accept deals – perhaps accepting a portion of a £10,000 debt – to tidy the books.

But the providers’ decision to raise the spending limit for many

customers in recent months – without being asked to do so – could backfire badly. Price-comparison service uSwitch.com reckons 5.7 million people received a boost to their credit-card limit in the

last year without being told about it, giving an average £1,538 per person for an extra £8.8bn of spending power.

“In the current climate, you could be fooled into thinking that increasing spending limits is a good thing as it stops people going over the limit and incurring extra charges,” says uSwitch’s Louise Bond.

“However, the issue is far more complicated. Providers are taking away consumer choice by throwing extra credit at people without their consent.

“Unless you regularly pay off your credit card bill in full, keeping high levels of debt on interest-bearing credit cards isn’t advisable. It’s an expensive form of borrowing.”

Peter Harrison, credit-card specialist at Moneysupermarket.com, says consumers must be aware of different rates charged on balance transfers and new purchases. A tempting 0 per cent on balance transfers might run for 12 months, while new purchases incur interest charges after three months.

Both Nationwide and SAGA cards, he says, offer a ‘positive hierarchy’ of repayment – money paid back each month cuts debt attracting the highest rate of interest.

“The fact is that many people who can’t repay debts intend to keep paying the minimum monthly sum required – usually one per cent to five per cent of outstanding balance – in the hope something turns up,” he says.

“It isn’t really the best way forward. If you don’t begin to start paying debts off, lenders may be entitled to increase rates because of higher risk.”

If you fear your card debts are out of control, the experts urge you to seek help – either from the card provider, or a debt advisor.

“The advantage of admitting problems is that the card provider is less likely to increase rates while the customer tries to sort things out,” says Harrison.

“Those who bury their head in the sand to avoid the problem could be most at risk of losing their homes in the months ahead.”

Essential guide to where you can save

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■ Canterbury Mazda Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory pub

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care, petrol or diesel £109.

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs

■ KOS is offering Traditional Barbeque Grill and Oven ‘Smoker Bags’ for £14.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS



CARD CHAOS: Outstanding card debt tops £64 billion in the UK

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Keeping your PPI

If you think you have been mis-sold a policy, you can claim compensation. Find out how...

THERE has been much confusion around Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in recent months, and the fact is that everyone needs to educate themselves on what it is and whether you need it, to ensure that you are not being mis-sold to.

If you think your policy has been mis-sold then there are steps you can take to ensure you get the compensation you deserve.

Here **Martyn Paddon**, senior practice manager at Bromley-based MTA Solicitors, dispels some of the myths about PPI.

WHAT IS PPI?

There are around 20 million PPI policies in the UK, generating over £5 billion a year for the companies involved. The policies cover repayments in the event that you are made redundant or unable to work due to illness or injury.

In many cases the policies are automatically added to a loan agreement regardless of whether the policy holder has requested one, and can increase the amount repayable by thousands of pounds over the life of the loan.

Consumers are often unaware of this taking place and many people fall outside of the bracket for which the policy applies. For exam-

ple if you are retired, self-employed or not reliant on an income, you may not need or benefit from PPI as for a large part these policies cover you if you are employed and lose your job through redundancy.

When you take out a loan there are strict laws dictating how the loan is sold to you, which are there to protect you from unfair practices. The selling of PPI policies is regulated and falls within the Consumer Credit Act, which can be complex, so it is the lender who has to ensure that policies are sold correctly.

If the correct process has not been adhered to the PPI policy could be mis-sold and you may be entitled to a refund of the policy, plus interest. Also many sellers are paid commission on the sale, so are keen for you to take on Payment Protection Insurance regardless of whether you actually need it.

The financial regulator has been fining PPI companies for "not treating customers fairly", plus the Competition Commission has investigated the market and has placed a number of demands on lenders to curb these unscrupulous practices. But this comes as little relief to those consumers who have already been mis-sold PPI.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOUR POLICY HAS BEEN MIS-SOLD

There are hundreds of thousands of potential mis-sold policies out there and it is possi-

ble to seek compensation on mis-sold PPI going back six years. So what are the options if you think you may have been a victim of mis-selling?

The biggest hurdle is knowing whether you've been mis-sold PPI in the first place. You may have taken out loans in the past and have no knowledge of whether the lender has even sold you PPI, as they may have wrapped this into the re-payment figure without you even realising. Often this can be ascertained by examining your loan documents carefully.

Many people embark on their own battle to try and recoup the money they have already paid on mis-sold insurance but lenders can drag their heels, only paying out the minimum (with no interest), or simply refusing to pay out at all. People then give up, thinking this is the maximum to be repaid, or that there isn't a case to be won. However getting some professional legal support at this stage would increase the likelihood that they would receive a lot more.

Choosing the services of claims management companies, who now offer PPI reclaiming services, needs to be thoroughly investigated before proceeding. Many of these companies have simply jumped on the bandwagon without the expertise and it's probably best to tread cautiously. Some charge an upfront fee which should not be necessary.

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on the facts



UNSCRUPULOUS PRACTICES: many sellers are paid commission on the sale, so are keen for you to take on Payment Protection Insurance regardless of whether you actually need it

Seeking legal advice may be a more viable option, as most solicitors will charge on a 'no win no fee' basis.

By seeking professional legal advice, you stand a better chance of proving to the lender that the PPI policy has been mis-sold and obtaining proper compensation.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT POLICY FOR YOU

Consumers do need to understand this type of Payment Protection Insurance,

ensure they need it and take on the responsibility to shop around. You need to take out insurance that's suitable for you and ensure the lender is giving you options.

You should be very wary if the insurance policy is tied-in to you receiving a loan.

Despite all the negativity around PPI, it is a very valid insurance if sold correctly, and should you need to make a claim, can mean the difference between losing everything and retaining your lifestyle.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Money fraud figures double in South East

By **ALEX HOAD**

BIG-MONEY fraud is at its highest level in decades and has almost doubled in a year in the South East.

The news comes from research by global financial powerhouse KPMG Forensic, which also revealed more than half the fraud in the UK by value takes place in the region.

More than 160 cases of serious fraud with charges of over £100,000 came before the courts in the first half of the year – the highest number in any six-month period since KPMG launched its fraud barometer 21 years ago.

The South East remains the UK's fraud hotspot, with 63 serious frauds taking place in the first six months of the year – up from 38 in the same period in 2008.

The value of the frauds was more than £350m – more than half of the UK's overall total.

Among the Kent cases were an Ightham man who claimed he was a land developer earning £90,000 a year to obtain two false mortgages worth £346,000.

A Swanley mechanic was implicated in a £38m stolen car ring, while two employees of a Kent insurer lodged bogus claims to defraud their employer of £462,000.

Investors were the biggest victims, losing £320m – mainly to professional gangs, which accounted for £450m of fraud nationwide.

Company managers were also responsible for defrauding their employers of £150m in 32 cases throughout the UK



DODGY DEALS: Hard times mean more people are driven to fraud by personal pressures, and more investors are willing to believe in bogus cooked-up investment schemes

Over a quarter of cases, worth £111m, were committed against financial institutions.

Commenting on the figures, Hitesh Patel, partner at KPMG Forensic, said: "These figures are bad, but the worst is yet to come."

"It will be a number of years before the impact of the recession fully feeds through into the fraud statistics."

"Hard times mean more people are driven to fraud by personal pressures, and more investors are willing to believe in cooked-up investment schemes."

"Companies too remain vulnerable to the threat within – their staff – as evidenced by the £150m of fraud that managers have been tried for in the last six months alone."

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Getting Medway back in business

New council schemes will help economic growth

BY ALEX HOAD

WHILE the recession continues to bite across the country, individuals and businesses in Medway will soon be offered even more help to beat it.

The local council has developed a series of counter-recessionary measures, including a scheme to support graduates and a programme of business start-up grants.

These measures are designed to show support for local business start-up and growth as well as workforce development.

The measures are also targeted at the priorities identified in the council's new draft Economic Development Strategy.

Portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth Cllr Jane Chitty said: "Combatting the recession is high on Medway Council's agenda and we are committed to doing everything we can to help business growth and job creation at a local level."

"Medway has built a very strong business sector, ranging from engineering and manufacturing to service industries and it is imperative that we build on this very sound foundation.

"These 10 counter-recessionary measures show our commitment as a council to support local residents and businesses."

The 10 measures are:

• **Micro-enterprise graduate work placement scheme:** It is important that students see Medway as a place to utilise their qualifications and skills.

This scheme will provide micro-businesses in Medway with access to talented local graduates – allowing graduates to gain valuable work experience and providing businesses with valuable skills. This scheme will start in the autumn.

• **Business start-up grants programme:** These will be grants available up to a maximum of £1,000, which will help budding entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses. Further information on this scheme will be available shortly and the scheme will begin in September.

• **Partners for Growth (PFG) interest-free loan scheme:** Previously, businesses wanting

to apply for the scheme had to have a bank loan in place before they were eligible. However, many small and medium-sized companies in Medway have found it difficult getting extra finance from banks due to the current recession. In answer to this, Medway Council has relaxed the criteria of the scheme and companies no longer need to have a bank loan to apply.

• **Medway Retail Conference and launch of Retail Champions scheme:** On October 1, the Medway Retail Conference will mark the launch of the Retail Champions' scheme, which takes place at the St George's Centre in Chatham Maritime. It aims to support Medway's retail businesses by advising about local workforce training and business support programmes, covering aspects such as customer service skills, effective business development and marketing.

• **Employ Medway:** Starting in August, Employ Medway will focus on those people who are recently unemployed or have been made redundant. Employ Medway advisors will work with clients to enable them to review their options, look at addressing their training

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and skills needs and further provide support in seeking alternative local employment. A dedicated advice centre will open next month in Chatham High Street.

• **Managed workspace:** Medway Council has more than 100 business units at affordable rents across three sites, including the newly opened Innovation Centre which provides high quality business space tailored for innovative, ambitious and dynamic businesses. All tenants receive personalised business advice and support at all of the council's managed workspace sites. The council has vacant premises ready and available to businesses with aspirations for growth.

• **Transmanche Enterprise Network:** An advice service to assist businesses to find new markets on the other side of the Channel.

• **Eco-Advantage Scheme:** A training and development programme for local businesses advising them how they can respond to the challenge of climate change while also reducing costs.

This scheme will become operational in the autumn.

• **Creative Industries – business support and networking:** Support for the growth and development of Medway's creative businesses through the appointment of a dedicated business support officer.

cer. This role will also include implementing initiatives that will encourage networking between creative businesses as well as business partnerships with other complementary sectors, such as manufacturing. Medway Council hopes to recruit for this position in the autumn.

• **Medway apprenticeships scheme in partnership with local training providers:** The development of a new local apprenticeship scheme to provide valuable work experience to young people aged from 16 to 24. Opportunities will include apprenticeships within the council as well as with private sector contractors to the council. This scheme will start in October.

For more information email the business support team at business.support@medway.gov.uk.



PLANTING IDEAS:
New council measures are designed to show support for local business start-up and growth as well as workforce development

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Retailing in the recession

David Garrard, associate director and retail negotiator working at the Maidstone office of Christie + Co, shares his thoughts on the corporate retail property sector in the South East



RETAIL NEGOTIATOR: David Garrard

BUSINESSES in the retail sector, be it convenience store, off-licence, forecourt or newsagent, are certainly not immune to the global financial crisis we currently find ourselves dealing with, but are proving less susceptible than businesses in other areas of the retail market.

Although average property values in the retail sector fell across the UK in 2008, they did so at a much more modest rate than those reported in other business property sectors, for example what pubs and hotels witnessed.

This trend has been maintained across the South East retail market over the last six months, demonstrating the sector's resilience and showing that levels of confidence remain high amongst established operators and first-time buyers.

Many business owners we talk to indicate that turnovers have remained steady, although there has been some pressure on margins, while some have witnessed an increase in turnover. Despite all the economic pressures, it should be remembered that convenience stores, etc, generally provide staple products which consumers buy on a regular basis.

The fact that transactional levels have remained fairly stable also shows that independent operators clearly continue to believe in their ability to build successful local retail businesses.

We are also seeing that buyers with commercial or residential portfolios are taking a long-term view of their assets in the hope they rebuild their value— they are also looking for cash-generating businesses. These predominantly cash-rich buyers, who have been sitting on the sidelines for the last eight months, have steadily come back into the market looking for opportunities where they can add value.

With banks becoming increasingly stringent regarding their lending criteria, established local operators are also taking advantage of a reduction in competition from national operators and declines in values, to enhance their estates. The banks are seemingly more willing to back those with existing successful operations.

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still generate sales, especially as consumers cut down on luxury items and concentrate on necessities.

The first half of the year has continued to highlight the fact that people's appetite for this ever-changing market remains strong. Despite the doom and gloom being propagated by national media regarding the commercial property market at present, there are still plenty of people looking to buy both freehold and leasehold opportunities in the retail sector.

The last six months has also highlighted that it is imperative for businesses and would-be buyers to seek professional, up-to-the-minute advice, whether you are selling or valuing a property.

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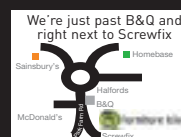
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Photographer David Watkins and Gabrielle Gothe on their new business that's thriving despite the crunch

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By JEREMY GATES

WHEN full-page adverts claim the price of gold has soared 30 per cent in the past six months alone, it isn't only those facing big debts or mortgage arrears who are tempted to turn old heirlooms and unwanted gifts into cash.

Strictly speaking, the claim isn't true. Gold is down about 18 per cent on the £700 level seen in February, while the dollar price is down from 1,006 to 955 in the same period. But this is unlikely to deter sellers who need cash.

Earlier this year, gold achieved its highest-ever price against sterling, the euro, the Swiss franc and the dollar in Canada, Australia and New Zealand – indeed just about everywhere except for the Japanese yen and the US dollar.

After years of steely jewellers looking dismissively at a well-worn keepsake and advising desperate owners not to waste their time, the internet is creating a world where it is much easier to turn surplus items into cash.

With British Government debt soaring towards a trillion pounds, Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, the UK's leading online service for gold bullion investment, reckons the craze for turning valuable metals into cash may be only just beginning.

"When Cash4Gold, a big American company, gets going in Britain, you could see quite an impact on this business," he says.

"These boys are big enough to take a two-minute advertisement in the Superbowl. A significant amount of the booming level of scrap-gold supply may be down to the model they've established.

"Theirs is an impressive business model: heavy advertising, an efficient collection/distribution network and a cheque rapidly dispatched for vendors."

Website CashYourgoldNow.co.uk, which promises a "fast, efficient and very discreet"

Get ready for the gold rush

service, is likely to feel the draught as the Americans arrive.

Its selling angle is that any unwanted old jewellery can be turned into instant cash for a holiday, a new outfit, bills or a special occasion.

The argument is a timely one because gold has been a relatively steady store of value through 18 months of financial turmoil which has wiped nearly £9 trillion off global share values. Most other investments, apart from US Treasury bonds, have headed south.

Jewellery

Ash says the "scrap side" of gold sales boomed globally in the first quarter of 2009, with a total value of 500-1,000 metric tonnes sold by owners seeking cash.

If private sales continued at levels seen earlier this year, the scrap side could soon generate more gold than the 2,500 tonnes annually produced by commercial mines.

"Heavy selling by private owners in Asia and the Far East is normal and what you would expect," Ash says.

"There is no banking network in rural India, so farmers turn profits into gold, not rupees, and then sell heavy 'investment jewellery' for cash in the planting season.

"What's new is the volume of old jewellery coming out of Western households. It is being sold off in greater volumes than at any time since the recession of 1979-81."

However, Ash thinks second-quarter sales

might actually fall: gold prices tend to drift in summer, and sales have attracted less media coverage lately.

It is also possible, he thinks, that households have dumped items they thought about selling for years. Websites offer easier access to buyers, and a cleaner sale.

But are people selling too cheaply?

Krista Waddell at Ounces to Pounds, which organises 'Gold Parties', claims her 'tupperware-style' events in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Scotland pay out £50,000 per week.

"Cash4Gold is short-changing Britain," she claims. "Its margin is chewed away on TV advertising and profit, and not put in the pockets of British consumers."

"With our parties, people see what they are getting, without delay. They get a good price there and then for unwanted gold, platinum and silver. No waiting, no hassle."

Waddell says her customers, mainly 45-plus and mostly women, are not turning valuables into cash to pay the rent.

"They have stuff sitting around and no other sales outlet, and they won't use pawnbrokers," she says.

"Often, they bought items in the 1980s when gold was a third of the price it is today. If they sell today at 50 per cent of value, they still make money. It's a fun evening, and it's an unusual sale which puts cash in your pocket!"

But even these sellers may regret their



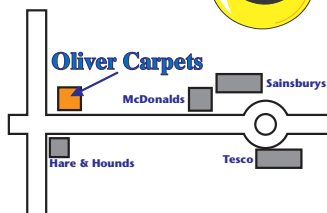
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MONEY MAKER: Old jewellery can be turned into instant cash for a holiday, a new outfit, bills or a special occasion



actions later, say lenders who accept your valuables as security for a loan and return them when the loan is redeemed.

Paul Aitken at leading online asset lender Borro.com says he has been following this market closely since it began in the United States 18 months ago.

"Too many people accept offers of 20-30 pence in the pound. Those who see jewellery as a way of getting money should consider all other options first.

"We can usually lend more money than they will get from a sale. They can come back, perhaps within two months, and have their goods back after we deduct interest.

"In close to 90 per cent of cases we take on, the customer gets back whatever item they have pledged. But this is a solution to short-term money problems, not long-term ones."

Aitken says that when such artifacts are melted down for their precious metals, any intrinsic value, both in workmanship and sentiment, is destroyed.

"If you need money in a hurry, don't sell under distress at a gold party because you are

unlikely to get the best price."

Aitken says 'asset lending' is much easier since the internet reduced the need to find a pawnbroker: just go online, find out what an item is worth, send it off in a secure envelope and the cash is ready in 24 hours.

However, Borro charges four per cent a month on a loan of £1,000. Over six months, a £1,000 loan costs £300 interest.

Of course, any owner of valuable goods should think carefully before they sell.

Mark Gettinby, director of Intune, the financial services arm of Help The Aged, says it is important to be aware of security as you will be dealing with people you don't know.

"If selling goods online, never give out bank details and make sure you wait for any cheques to clear before parting with the goods," he advises.

"If people come to your house to pick up items, arrange a time when you are not alone. And if you're not selling goods through an auction marketplace, it's always worth getting a second opinion on the price offered to verify you're getting the best possible price."

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Save by buying a car

BY STEVE LOADER

BUY a car in a recession?

It sounds mad, but there might never be a better time for some of us.

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge on a new car thanks to big discounts at the moment.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme (see later story), but dealers have been knocking cash off cars for months – whether you have a 10-year-old 'scrapper' to trade or not.

There are other deals that can be factored in too, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any add-ons you fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying an unpopular engine or trim combination or, worse, a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago.

After all, you don't want to trade your old gas guzzler for another just as thirsty or likely to depreciate badly.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars always devalue unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for ditching something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, review your part-exchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out the running costs for the next three years – they might be much less



WISE BUY: Chevrolet's ultra-new Cruze (above) and the versatile Nissan Qashqai (left) are two models to tempt you if you decide to raid those savings accounts



the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version.

The eco supermini might save £105 road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more and you might not think the driving experience is worth paying extra for either.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; the fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on their heavier diesel equivalents.

than the cost of replacing it.

Road tax also favours downsizing – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but this is still a small part of

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

1 A brand new 59 Reg Picanto 5dr from £4,495.*

The Government and Kia will give you £2,000 towards a lovely new Picanto when you scrap your old car. Mr Darling, we salute you.

2 Group 2 insurance, just £35 road tax.

Combine that with incredible fuel efficiency of up to 57.6 mpg and you've got very low running costs indeed. Brilliant.

3 The Government giving away money.

Okay, so it's the same as reason one, but it's so good we couldn't let it slide. Just hurry, before they change their minds.

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BY STEVE LOADER

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear – a moped or motorcycle might be a better option.

If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save and stay legal. Feather the throttle at cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and

Smarter driving for better saving



SENSIBLE CHOICE: Downsizing to modern cars like the Peugeot 107 city car (right) or affordable Kia Ceed family hatch – with a seven-year warranty – can save money, but sensible driving can knock even more off your motoring bill

wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing

and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order over £7000

■ Living Out log cabins shop in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off all garden furniture

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ The Orchard restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air con

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP

■ KOS is offering Snuggly mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phone just £24.99 save £20

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Scrapheap banger is motoring ahead

AFTER a shaky start, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive is purring like a sports car.

It has been so successful that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

So, while there is some talk of a top-up donation, get your order in now if you fancy swapping your banger – firm orders will be honoured even if the delivery of the new car is delayed.

The donor car must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappoint-

BY **STEVE LOADER**

ment that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and be tempted to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the

exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.



SALES BOOST: The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has boosted sales of newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and ultra-frugal Hyundai i10 (right)



Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS is offering personalised Weekender Bags for £29.99

■ Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September

■ Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs
■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher

■ Linwood Electronics in Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10 series Plasma when you trade in your old TV

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for £79.95+vat

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IN DEMAND: Small hatchbacks like the frugal Mazda2 (far right), chic Renault Clio and big-selling Vauxhall Corsa (below) are in demand, helped by low running costs including low road tax bills



Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care petrol or diesel, £169

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving more than 50 per cent on RRP

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all its garden furniture range

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range log cabins

■ Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes

■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster glare shields from £14.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Pros and cons of tax savings

BY **STEVE LOADER**

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

ROAD TAX BANDS

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Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO₂ emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.



Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

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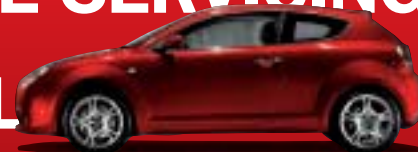
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- CHECK ENGINE OIL
- DRAIN AND REFILL WITH ENGINE OIL
- FIT NEW SUMP PLUG WASHER (WHERE FITTED)
- FIT NEW ENGINE OIL FILTER
- CHECK BRAKE PIPES AND LINES
- CHECK EXHAUST SYSTEM

- INSPECT TYRES AND SET PRESSURES
- REPORT ON TYRE TREAD DEPTH
- VISUALLY CHECK COOLING SYSTEM FOR LEAKS
- CHECK ANTIFREEZE CONTENT
- CHECK DRIVE BELTS (EXCLUDES CAM BELT)
- CHECK ALL FLUID LEVELS
- CHECK BATTERY CONDITION
- CHECK ALL FLUID LEVELS
- VISUALLY CHECK FRONT PADS AND DISCS

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- VISUALLY CHECK COOLING SYSTEM FOR LEAKS
- CHECK ANTIFREEZE CONTENT
- CHECK DRIVE BELTS (EXCLUDES CAM BELT)
- CHECK ALL FLUID LEVELS
- CHECK BATTERY CONDITION
- VISUALLY CHECK FRONT PADS AND DISCS
- CHECK SUSPENSION DAMPERS
- ADD SCREENWASH AND TOP UP FLUIDS (EXCLUDES ANTIFREEZE)
- FIT NEW AIR FILTER

- CHECK FOR ANY BODY DEFECTS
- CHECK OPERATION OF LIGHTS
- CHECK WASHERS AND WIPERS
- CHECK ENGINE OIL
- DRAIN AND REFILL WITH ENGINE OIL
- FIT NEW SUMP PLUG WASHER (WHERE FITTED)
- FIT NEW ENGINE OIL FILTER
- CHECK BRAKE PIPES AND LINES
- CHECK EXHAUST SYSTEM
- INSPECT TYRES AND SET PRESSURES
- REPORT ON TYRE TREAD DEPTH
- VISUALLY CHECK COOLING SYSTEM FOR LEAKS
- CHECK ANTIFREEZE CONTENT
- CHECK DRIVE BELTS (EXCLUDES CAM BELT)
- CHECK ALL FLUID LEVELS

- CHECK BATTERY CONDITION
- VISUALLY CHECK FRONT PADS AND DISCS
- CHECK SUSPENSION DAMPERS
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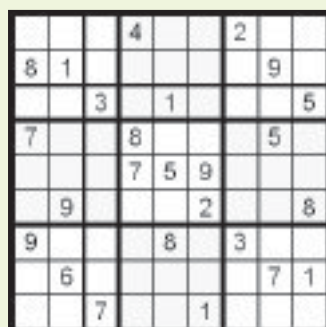
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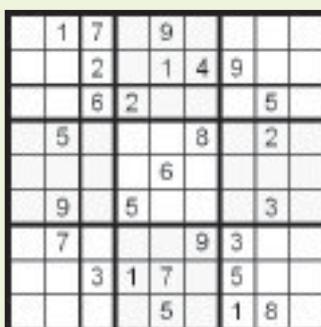
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

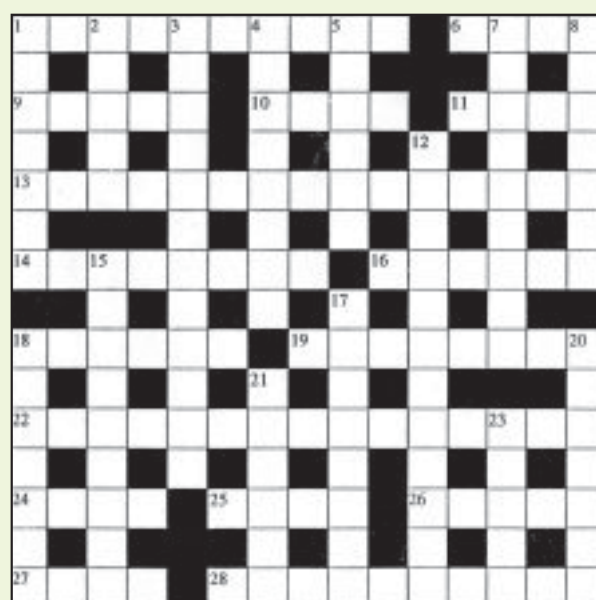
ACROSS

- 1 US canteens potentially providing nourishment (10)
 6 In the bag Edam had matured (4)
 9 A detective accepting last letter from old Mexican (5)
 10 Trip from square belonging to us (4)
 11 Jane produced a girl (4)
 13 Itchy meaty snack? (4,11)
 14 Lifted forest timber (8)
 16 Before youth leader found abbey (6)
 18 End that is for footballer (6)
 19 Be about to have the Spanish cooked meat included with white sauce (8)
 22 Old scoundrel running sporting events (9,6)
 24 Eccentric left with nothing on (4)
 25 Part of eye, part mauve always (4)
 26 Doctor behind with payment (5)
 27 Idolise Dorothy having energy (4)
 28 Suspect work on bend in disrepair (6-4)

DOWN

- 1 Person photographing fish (7)
 2 Arty's struggling with woodland deity (5)
 3 Too much of a load to bear (6,6)
 4 In front turning into rear (8)
 5 Surly sort of curtsy (6)
 7 Colourful place for actors offstage? (9)
 8 Powerhouse? (7)
 12 Pipe officer (12)
 15 Placed wider apart while in a dazed state (6,3)
 17 Pass football to defender and get this response? (8)
 18 Looked with amazement at remarkable gold egg (7)
 20 Illuminate length I removed (7)
 21 Case of the shakes (6)
 23 I am past the mature stage (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 SE African country (10)
 6 Bug (4)
 9 Feelings experienced (5)
 10 Chrysalis (4)
 11 Go round and round (4)
 13 Culpability (15)
 14 Raised in relief (8)
 16 Harsh (6)
 18 New (6)
 19 Mournful (8)
 22 Building materials (6-3-6)
 24 Farewell (2-2)
 25 Rouse (4)
 26 Tight (5)
 27 Social class (4)
 28 Dutifully (10)

DOWN

- 1 Mobile (7)
 2 Striped mammal (5)
 3 Skilful act (12)
 4 Indecent (8)
 5 Arrogant (6)
 7 Meaningless exclamation (9)
 8 Fixed attitude (7)
 12 Drink excessively (3,3,6)
 15 Racket sport (9)
 17 Shook (8)
 18 Gangster (7)
 20 Robbery (7)
 21 Of Cambridge (6)
 23 Tinge (5)

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ACROSS: 1 Endow 4 Piquancy 8 Play gooseberry 10 Spotlight 11 Style 12 Deft 13 Toboggan 17 Keypunch 18 Moon 22 Cajun 24 Transient 25 Unpremeditated 26 Dampener 27 Empty. DOWN: 1 Exposed 2 Dragonfly 3 Wiggle 4 Plough 5 Question 6 Aversion 7 Curry 9 Mean 14 Goose-step 15 Runner-up 16 Scotsman 17 Kick 19 Notedly 20 Zander 21 Tsetse 23 Junta.

QUICK SOLUTION No101

deco 20 United 21 Pencil 23 Error.
 Economic 16 Demanded 17 Sigh 19 Art
 External 7 Tulip 9 Hymn 14 Statement 15
 Interlude 3 Gallon 4 Cable 5 Selfless 6
 Preceded 27 Lotto. DOWN: 1 Belisha 2
 Amusement 25 Crème de la crème 26
 Assassin 17 Sketched 18 Gala 22 Green 24
 little 10 Sartorial 11 Reply 12 Arum 13

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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Soak up Brittany's Gallic charm

BY DAVE MARK

CHATEAU des Ormes offers something-for-everyone holidays.

The 250-acre parkland and forest site, about 15 miles inland from Mont-Saint-Michel, has enough activities to keep the whole family busy and out of sight without ever venturing into the rest of France.

It's visually rather impressive. Spreading outwards from a sublime, centuries-old château, the landscaped forests and parks somehow manage to retain a remote, rural, almost pastoral quality despite being close enough together to preserve a sense of community and neighbourliness.

In this self-contained, almost exclusively English little world, you have everything from paintballing to pony trekking, pedalos to pitch-and-putt. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools have slides, waterfalls, lazy-rivers and all you could ask for, except maybe a place to swim.

While some activities are free, plenty are not. And the ones that aren't are the ones your nippers will want to try.

The aerial circuit of zip wires and wire walks, for example, looked terrific fun, but at around £15 a head, it had to be. The reps were rather good, however, and not too many people laughed when a pensioner from South Yorkshire clattered into a tree.

For our late August stay, the weather was nothing special. When it rained, it really rained, and drying damp clothes in a mobile home isn't easy, although that was our only complaint about the roomy four-person 'Villagrand' accommodation. Its two decent-sized bedrooms book-ended a comfortable kitchen-cum-dining room, and the two bathrooms were a godsend.



HIGH POINT: The magnificent Mont-Saint-Michel off the coast of Normandy is a must-see on any trip to the region

Like all deluded families, we'd promised to take the self-catering thing seriously and live on a budget. But the seafood was one of the main reasons for coming to this part of the world, so we went a tad mad on mussels.

If we did want to knock up a home-cooked feast, an on-site shop had all we needed, though the area had a wasp problem at the time of our visit and the bakery buzzed with unwelcome visitors.

As ever with Brits abroad, the campsite truly came alive at night. But the bars weren't too rowdy or too expensive, and were nicely packed with families playing cards, watching sport on the big screen or knocking back a drink or two until the disco opened and the teenagers could go off to enjoy themselves without much supervision.

The jewel in the area's crown was, for us, the gorgeous little town of Dinan – a little-known medieval citadel with 13th-century ramparts and 15th-century half-timbered houses. My four-year old, Elora, called it "the olden days" and she wasn't far wrong.

But for retail therapy, the market at Dinard takes some beating. Whether it be textiles,

seafood or just enough clothes to start a shop, stalls stretch as far as the eye can see. It's ringed by endless coffee shops and bars, where the waiters have no objection to you ordering a sit-down coffee while you pull a baguette from your shopping bag and have a munch.

For seafood, the harbour town of Cancale can't be beaten.

The platter at one of the many blue-and-white-painted seafront restaurants where we ate was extraordinarily fresh, with local oysters big enough to be eaten with knife and fork.

For wow-factor, the best came last: Mont-Saint-Michel is surely one of the great wonders of the world.

Like a snowglobe without the glass, this exquisite church sits atop a rocky island approximately one kilometre off the coast of Normandy. Accessible by foot only during a gap in the tides, this extraordinary commune of narrow streets with tiny shops and restaurants feels like a filmset.

All in all, we spent more than we planned, ate more than we anticipated, and had much more fun than we expected.

FACT FILE: BRITTANY

Time difference	+ One hour (GMT)
Regional capital	Nantes
Language	French, Breton, Gallo
Population	4,400,000
Currency	£1 = 1.16 Euros
Religion	Catholic
Climate	Temperate

Travel details

Dave Mark was a guest of Keycamp, which offers seven nights' self-catering at May half-term 2010 in a Supernova mobile home for two adults and up to four children at Château des Ormes in Dol-de-Bretagne, from £383 including Dover-Calais ferry crossings, if booked by September 30.

Limited availability remains this year in August and September in a mobile home from £472 per week. Five-night tent stays in September start at £219.50.

Keycamp reservations: 0844 406 0319 and www.keycamp.co.uk



BIG SPLASH: A pool at Château des Ormes

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WOMEN seeking men

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT
Young lady, 20, enjoys meals out, cinema and socialising with friends. WLTm a man, 20-30, with similar interests. Eastbourne Box 454247

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER
Hi I'm Katie, caring, fun-loving, 5ft5, slim single mum of 2. Enjoy clubbing out and cosy nights in with genuine man. Box 453269

MATCH OF THE DAY!
Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...
Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY
Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTm white British male, 29-34, no lies, for long-term relationship. Box 883431

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE
Lovely loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

SEEKING MR DARCY
Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?
31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTm cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

HORSES FOR COURSE...
Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!
Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

GOOD LUCK CHARM
Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, wltm similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...
Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SOUND GOOD?
Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

HAPPY DAYS!
Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 380734

SEALED WITH A KISS
Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

STARRY NIGHTS
Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

SOMETHING LASTING
Professional single woman, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Hailsham Box 455221

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding, and WLTm honest, reliable man. Box 451311

HISTORIC MEETING?
Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666



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MEND A BROKEN HEART
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

CUTE AS CAN BE
Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

A SOUL MATE
Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lovely pretty bit-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

PERFECT MATCH
Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine. Box 453374

TO THE STARS
Woman with a great sense of humour, I'm 40, and I like going out, astrology, writing, and socialising. How about you? Kent area. Box 453877

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YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE
Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, wltm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

SMILE!
Looking for a fun-loving guy for a LTR. I'm 41, works as a dental nurse, easy to get on with, always up for fun times. Sittingbourne Box 454827

THE WIT TO WOO!
Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862

BETWEEN US
Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?
Shy but confident-once-known female, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY
Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796

LOVE IS ALL AROUND
Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517

HELLO EVERYONE!
Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTm a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569

ACTIVE TYPE
Lively, energetic and fun loving mum, 42, I'm 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, wltm mixed race/black pet, to share good times with. Box 451819

LET'S DATE!
Hard-working woman, 42, WLTm a nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327

BELLA ISABEL
Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTm a gent to socialise with. Box 878250

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457

LOVE TO MEET YOU
Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy, I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun male. Aylesford Box 428464

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

TLC ON OFFER FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!
Blonde, blue eyed woman, 44, fun-loving, looking for Mr Right. I love going out, nights in, movies, walking, local gigs. WLTm the right man for TLC. Box 880280

STARTING OVER
Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTm a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141

MISS THIS MISS OUT
Radiant, warm, witty, intelligent, attractive lady, 44, 5'6", love music, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, wltm like-minded gent, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Box 430403

COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

COME ON DOWN!
Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693

RELIGHT MY FIRE
Young professional widow, 46, own home, tall, attractive, green eyes/fair hair, enjoys all the good things in life. Looking for a fun-loving romantic guy. Box 876575

FROM THIS MOMENT
Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, n/s, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, n/s, -5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454591

HOPING YOUR THE ONE
Petite, outgoing blonde, 46, GSOH, looking for a caring, compassionate man who will be my soulmate and hopefully my life partner. Box 454710

HEART AND SOUL
Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

SOUND GOOD?
Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186

LOOK THIS WAY!
Slim single mum, 48, 5ft5, light brown hair, works full time, friendly and easy-going, WLTm lots of new friends, hopefully someone special. Box 878466

STIMULATING COMPANY
Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, wltm nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 398829

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BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 425952

A WONDERFUL IDEA
Professional lady, 49, n/s, with manners and a heart, good-looking, hazel eyes, blonde hair, likes cinema, weekends away and walks, WLTm my soul mate! Maidstone Box 455682

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100

JUST IMAGINE
Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

LOVELY BUBBLY
Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

BRING ME TO LIFE
Lighthearted female, 42, 5ft2, medium build, loves walking, socialising, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832

NO MATTER WHAT
Nice looking female, 50, looking for nice looking, solvent male, 45-50, for friendship and leading to a LTR. Box 455914

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL
Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

FIRST CONTACT
Young lady of 54, 5ft3, not of many words but hoping to get to know a man to make me smile as I will him...Whitstable. Box 455014

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?
Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

A FAIRY TALE ENDING
Bubbly blonde, 56, hazel eyes, hard working, seeking a man, 45-55, to be my knight in shining armour. Herne Bay Box 455417

SMART MOVE
Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

BEING WITH YOU
Hi I'm Jenny, 61yr old widow, enjoys pub meals, countryside, the beach, cinema, seeks loving male for friendship and more. Box 453104

SHARE THE QUIET TIMES TOGETHER
62yr old attractive, well presented, happy lady, 52", short dark hair, slim build, love beach walks, picnics, music, cosy nights, wltm a like-minded, genuine male. Box 455635

COUNTRY ROMANCE
Intelligent, bubbly, tall, dark haired, green eyed, artistic brunette, 64, looking for tall, professional man who loves the arts, socialising, town/country for friendship and maybe more. Box 876054

LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG
Useful, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/acting, like walks, music, cooking, seeking sensitive, caring, uncomplicated male, N/S, perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first. Box 434345

HAPPY GO LUCKY
Stocky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female, for loving times. Box 455764

TRUSTWORTHY
Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437

Table for 2?
Homely type woman, 50, looking for a similar female. I'm 5ft5, salt & pepper hair, I'm honest and trust worthy and looking for the same. Hastings. Box 455737



MEN seeking women

HERE FOR YOU
Decent outgoing lad, 19, likes sports, keeping fit, drinks with mates, meals, holidays, travel, theatre...seeking similar girl for loving romance. Box 455724

READ THIS!
Fun-loving, honest male, 24, 6'6", dark blond, hazel eyes, cuddly, GSOH, seeks like-minded woman, enjoys reading, movies and relaxing with friends. Box 875548

HAVE MUCH TO OFFER
23yr old guy, 6ft, medium build, dark blond hair and blue eyes, enjoys pubs, cinema, walks, keeping fit, seeking like-minded girl for friendship and more. Box 893423

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN
Hastings chap, 27, 6ft3, shy, active, I like diving, rock climbing and art. Would like to meet someone to have fun with. Box 455815

MEANT TO BE, YOU AND ME?
Hi, single guy, 29, with GSOH, looking for friendship or a bit more. I love travelling and socialising, and especially films... Box 876193

I'M THE ONE!
Kind, generous and caring bloke, 31, from Folkestone, 6ft4, large build, blue eyes, enjoy socialising, cinema, eatings out, sport, seeking a like-minded girl for LTR. Box 455527

A BIT SHY...
Passionate male, 33, GSOH, likes cycling, staying fit, travel, holidays and music, seeks lady to socialise with and take on dates. Box 455801

LOVE ME TENDER
Fun-loving honest guy, 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading to honest, tender relationship. Eastbourne. Box 446200

BACK ON THE MARKET
Honest, caring 37 year old that still thinks he's 20, likes cinema, pubs, clubs and socialising; looking for a girlie girl for fun, possibly more. Box 877958

EXPLOSIVE PERSONALITY
Wicked sense of humour, old romantic, likes cycling, walking, live music, club/pubs. Sound good? I'm male, 35, seeking lady for friendship possibly more. Ramsgate. Box 908598

CAN YOU PUT UP WITH ME?
Hi all I'm 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451503

HEAVEN ABOVE
Italian man, 37, currently living in Maidstone, tall, very passionate and fun to be with, seeking a sensual woman for a LTR. Box 454418

AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER
Handsome, tall male, 38, 6'4", looking for a young lady to slowly re-discover the finer things in life. Box 454805

CHEEKY SOH
Unconventional, independent, successful, fun guy, 39, hazel eyes, no ties, like motorbikes, holidays, theme parks, looking for a younger, career female for lasting relationship. Ashford Box 455647

HAPPY GO LUCKY
Stocky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female, for loving times. Box 455764

TRUSTWORTHY
Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437

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THE WIT TO WOO

Handsome male, 37, 6ft4, blond hair, blue eyes, looking to slowly rediscover the finer things in life. Herne Bay Box 424503

DON'T HESITATE
Hello I'm Mark, 5'8" tall brown hair and eyes very fit. Love fun in any form you can think of. Box 452898

HIYA
I'm a cute and laid-back guy, 41, 5ft8, short hair, athletic, very tactile, loving and spontaneous, likes shopping, travelling, eating in/out, hate football! Brighton. Box 450614

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL
Romantic man, 41, 5ft10, slim, average looking, looking for a lady to bring love and laughter back into my life. Canterbury Box 455342

FIT
active male, 36, 6'4", short blond hair, blue eyes, broad-minded, seeks similar female, for fun times. Box 749395

ONE STEP CLOSER
Truthful male, 43, 5ft8, brown hair/eyes, medium build, own house, enjoys most things, seeking lovely woman. Brighton Box 455722

THE FOOD OF LOVE?
Modest male, 42, 6ft2 with dark hair, stocky, a chef and loving dad, loves cinema, dining out and cosy nights, seeks someone special and fun-loving. Box 450057

LET'S BUILD A ROMANCE
Hello, I'm Simon 43, single man in Kent own a construction co. Muscular build, blue-eyed, ruggedly handsome. Looking for a honest and genuine lady. Box 453322

IN LOVE
Single 50s male looking for lady for loving friendship. I'm honest, sincere, genuine and love a laugh, hoping for lasting romance. Box 451188

LONG-TERM THING
Caring, romantic, loyal guy, 45, 5ft11, slim/medium build, fair hair and blue eyes, gosh, wltm lady/single mum 25-40, slim/medium build. Hastings. Box 451334

TRUE LOVE
Fit and good-looking male, 44, 5ft8, dark hair/eyes, own house, honest and reliable, looking for a woman to find true love with. Brighton Box 455727

OVER TO YOU
Single white male, 44, 5ft11, dark hair and eyes, seeking LTR with a single black lady, enjoying walks, nights in, nights out and more. Box 447191

OFFER ME YOUR LOVE
Easygoing male, 45, young looking, 6'4" tall, green eyes, short fair hair. Average build, wltm like-minded lady, 30-40, for friendship and maybe more. Box 875799

ROMANCE IS ALIVE
46yr old male, GSOH, looking or a bubbly female, 45-45, for romance and share the good things in life. Box 454688

FAMILY LIFE
Happy-go-lucky dad, 46, sporty, keeps in good shape, own place, looking for an honest person to get to know well, possibly for relationship. Box 452446

THE LOOK OF LOVE

Outgoing and friendly man, 47, blue eyes, fair hair, likes the countryside and spicy food, looking to meet a nice and friendly lady for love. Box 449306

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU
Carpenter with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mother are welcomed! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 443274

STAND BY ME
48yr old male, hazel eyes, dark hair, into DIY, cooking, football, very cuddly, GSOH and outgoing, interested in most things, seeking someone special. Box 877888

IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
Kind, genuine, down-to-earth male, 47, seeking companionship and LTR. 5ft10, cropped hair, blue eyes, stocky with cuddly belly! Hailsham. Box 449583

TIME TOGETHER
Outgoing, sporty, 48yr old guy, 6ft, blue eyes, medium build. I'm an engineer and have a motorbike. I'd love to meet an



PROPERTY NEWS

Homeowners expect market recovery

CONSUMER confidence was nudged up marginally in July by expectations of recovery in the housing market and an end to the recession, Nationwide said.

Nationwide's Consumer Confidence Index rose to 60 in July, up from a revised 59 in June.

Spending confidence fell for the first time in a year, but British homeowners believe the value of their property will rise in the next six months.

Martin Gahbauer, Nationwide's chief economist, said consumers are cautious, but are not panicked by the recession.

"Consumers might have been reassured by reports that the housing market may be starting to recover, and manufacturing output is no longer falling as rapidly as it was a few months ago," Gahbauer said.

Around one in five of those polled expect the economy to worsen in the next six months, compared to 53 per cent at the start of 2009.

In a separate report, the British Retail Consortium revealed a slowdown in shop-price inflation, helping consumer purchasing power.

Commercial sector sees rise in fortune

THE value of commercial property has risen for the first time since June 2007, according to property agents CB Richard Ellis.

The value of offices, retail space and warehouses has fallen by around 45 per cent since the onset of the credit crisis in 2007. The sector's demise has played a major role in the woes being endured by Britain's biggest banks.

But analysts say the 0.2 per cent rise recorded for July by the company is further evidence that the economy may be turning a corner.

A number of property companies and funds are now raising millions of pounds to target properties whose values have fallen sharply and this demand for assets has driven the rise in pricing.

David Wylie, head of economics and forecasting at the company, said: "This month's index results reveal the undoubted sea change in investor sentiment that has taken place.

"Although concerns remain over the near-term prospects for secondary assets with weaker covenants, the figures seem to confirm that investors have awoken to what is now widely being seen as a once-in-a-generation buying opportunity."



Hot campaign to make Brits more house-proud

■ BY NICK AMES

ONE in five people are too embarrassed at the state of their home to admit visitors, according to a recent survey.

And worries over interior design are affecting a large number of people who have little confidence in their ability to make the best of their rooms.

Appliance brand, Hotpoint, has conducted national research into how people feel about their homes.

In the current economic climate, with people "improving, not moving", the company says it has got to the bottom of how homeowners really view their interior-design skills.

As a result, Hotpoint has launched a campaign with interior designer Kelly Hoppen to help Brits inject a bit of style into their homes.

According to the research, the way we use the rooms in our home is starting to change as our busy lifestyles evolve.

A spokesman for the study said: "The kitchen has now overtaken the dining room as the hub of family life. In fact, we now spend more than three times as many hours in there than any other room in the house other than the lounge – highlighting just how important the space is becoming to modern family life.

"One in 20 of us has even moved house to get our hands on a bigger kitchen."

Hotpoint's research has found that:

- 14 per cent of people have yet to feel a sense of home ownership about where they live
- 37 per cent of people questioned lack confidence when it comes to interior design
- 38 per cent of people like their home but don't feel it's stylish enough
- 26 per cent of people say that the economic climate has prevented them from



ANOTHER FINE MESS: Brits lack confidence in their interior-design abilities and are embarrassed about their homes

making the improvements their home needs, with over 16 per cent not moving house because of the downturn.

Launching the Hotpoint Hot Style campaign, Kelly Hoppen said: "My kitchen is the heart of my home – my dining room is virtually redundant now as I entertain all my friends and family in my kitchen.

"I want to show that creating a lovely, stylish kitchen needn't be daunting or expensive. That's why I've teamed up with Hotpoint to help create some Hot Style in kitchens throughout the UK."

Lisa Curran, Hotpoint's communications manager, said: "Hotpoint has launched this campaign with Kelly Hoppen as we think it's really important that people feel proud about their homes.

"Kelly's tips show that interior design needn't be intimidating and can be done to suit all budgets. The findings from our research are really reflective of how family life is evolving; the fact that the dining room is being used less and less and that the kitchen is turning into more of a family room, highlights a move away from formality for us Brits."

Conti-rental trend reaches 18-30s

EIGHTEEN- to 30-year-olds are more likely to rent than their parents according to new research by the Association of Residential Letting Agents.

A survey of over 1,800 people revealed that 31 per cent of 18- to 30-year-olds had rented three or four properties, while only 17.5 per cent of their older counterparts had rented a similar number at the same age.

A third of 18-30s who currently live in rented accommodation said they enjoy independence from property ties. A further 31.6 per cent enjoyed the flexibility to move around.

However, only eight per cent thought it was

not important to eventually own a property.

There were more men who had never paid rent for a property – 32.3 per cent had opted to stay in the family home – while 75 per cent of females were making their own way in the world and had either bought or were in rented accommodation.

Young females were keener to get on the property ladder with 45.2 per cent having bought before they turned 25, while only 32 per cent of men could claim the same. 21 per cent of 18 to 30s stated that they wanted to continue renting for the foreseeable future.

Ian Potter, operations manager of ARLA,

said: "The research reveals a generation that wants to be upwardly mobile and free from ties. Attitudes towards renting have changed in the UK and we're becoming more like our fellow Europeans, who rent rather than buy.

"This trend of being 'conti-rental' recognises that renting should no longer be perceived as a waste of money, but simply as an alternative lifestyle choice to being tied to property for the long-term.

"Today's graduates, more than ever, are looking for work that involves travel and opportunities to move around, renting allows them to operate more freely in a flexible job market."

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CHERITON £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03027

- 3 bedroom mid terraced
- Lounge/Diner
- DG and GCH

Miles and Barr Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £115,000 (one hundred and fifteen thousand pounds) for Flat C, 174 Sandgate road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2LQ.

Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Miles and Barr Estate Agents 120 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2BW Tel 01303 255335 before exchange of contracts.



DOVER £112,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02899

- 2 Bed Terrace
- OSP
- No Forward Chain



WEST END £179,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03004

- Spacious 2 bed flat
- Private rear garden
- Cellar & no chain



DOVER £104,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03006

- Semi detached house
- Two double beds
- Double glazing and garden



FOLKESTONE £139,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02992

- New 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 bathrooms
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02977

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- Off road parking
- Rear garden, GCH and DG



DOVER £114,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03041

- Investors & first time buyers
- 1 bedroom terrace
- GFCH



CHERITON £219,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03010

- 3 bed detached
- Garage & driveway
- Private rear garden



FOLKESTONE £104,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02637

- 2 Bedroom top floor flat
- Lift in block, parking to rear
- Access to town, no chain



WEST END £104,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03009

- 2 bed apartment
- On edge of town centre
- No chain



CHERITON £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02098

- 3 bedroom flat
- Large rooms
- New kitchen & bathroom



TEMPLE EWELL £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02880

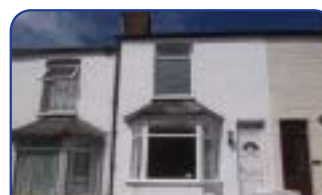
- Charming and Cosy cottage
- 2/3 beds
- Heart of the village



BROADMEAD VILLAGE £325,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02980

- 4 bedroom detached house
- 2 reception & 2 bathrooms
- Garage, no onward chain



FOLKESTONE £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03026

- 2 bedroom terraced
- Recently refurbished
- 60 FT rear garden



WEST END £114,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03038

- Superb one bed flat
- Kitchen/diner
- High standard / no chain



FOLKESTONE OIE0 £89,995

FOLKESTONE HFP02306

- Lovely ground floor apartment
- Own garden approx 70ft
- Perfect first time buy



WEST END £114,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02946

- 2 bedroom apartment
- Off road parking
- No chain



DOVER £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02882

- 4 Bed house
- Self contained flat
- Original features !



DOVER £189,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02915

- 3 X apartments
- Currently rented @ £1360/pcm
- No chain



WEST END £144,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02526

- 3 Bedrooms top floor flat
- Views over Grimston Gardens
- No chain, share of freehold



FOLKESTONE £140,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02944

- 2 bedroom terraced
- Superb condition
- Large garden



SANDGATE ROAD £104,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02940

- One bedroom apartment
- Purpose built block
- Rarely available



FOLKESTONE £149,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02724

- 3 Bedroom family home
- Lounge/diner, extended kitchen
- Double glazing, play area to loft

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FOLKESTONE £130,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02631

- One bedroom seafront apartment
- Superb sea front location
- Excellent order throughout



SEA FRONT LOCATION £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03013

- 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 bathrooms & private garden
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £220,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02270

- Large apartment in good location
- Two beds/two reception rooms
- Study/own private rear garden



ELVINGTON £140,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02870

- Two bedrooms
- Garage & Parking
- no chain



FOLKESTONE £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02515

- 4 Bedroom family home
- 2 Receptions, modern kitchen
- Well presented, call to view



DOVER £119,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03020

- 2 bed terraced house
- 2 reception rooms
- Large rear garden



TOWN CENTRE £99,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02905

- One bed apartment
- Newly built
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02054

- Three bedroom terraced
- Fully renovated
- No chain



EASTCLIFF £79,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02082

- Studio flat
- Newly renovated
- No chain



WEST END £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02379

- 2 bed apartment
- Lots of features
- Shared garden and no chain



DOVER £114,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03034

- 2 bedroom terraced
- Superb decorative order
- Large rear garden



HYTHE £119,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02685

- 2 bedroom terraced
- DG / GCH / rear garden
- Off road parking



FOLKESTONE £147,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02903

- Close to train station
- Three bedrooms
- No onward chain



THE BAYLE £124,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02428

- 2 bed retirement home
- Lift
- No chain



CHERITON £99,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03001

- One bedroom apartment
- Recently refurbished
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £89,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02546

- One bedroom flat
- Fantastic views
- Excellent condition



SANDGATE £109,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02937

- One bed apartment
- Walking distance to beach
- Off road parking



THE GATEWAY £145,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02876

- Stunning Views
- Two bedrooms
- Keys ready



THE LEAS £310,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02671

- Metropole court, the leas
- 4 bedrooms, 2 receptions
- Spacious entrance hall



WALDORF APARTMENTS £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03049

- 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 bathrooms
- Balcony and parking space



CHERITON £154,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02978

- 3 bedroom end terraced
- New fitted kitchen
- DG & GCH



FOLKESTONE £229,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02395

- Three garages
- Two bedrooms/conservatory
- Immaculate detached bungalow



FOLKESTONE £157,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02930

- Three bedroom semi
- Conservatory
- Garage & driveway



FOLKESTONE £154,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02983

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Superb order throughout
- Vacant possession



WEAR BAY CRESCENT £379,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02956

- 6 bedroom detached home
- Sea views & balcony
- No chain



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New Romney 01797 363194

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Dover £164,950

Three bedroom semi-detached house. Lounge/diner. Gas central heating & double glazing. Bathroom. Shower room. Harbour and town views. Enclosed rear garden. Off-road parking. Viewing recommended.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Hythe £399,995

Location, location, location! This four bedroom detached home backs onto the Hythe Canal with rear garden. In and out drive and virtual tour available online.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



Dover OIEO £125,000

Three bedroom semi-detached house. Sitting room. Kitchen. Shower room. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Established front and rear gardens.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Folkestone £157,995

This is a spacious three bedroom property in Folkestone. Two reception rooms, bathroom and separate WC.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



River OIEO £199,950

Four bedroom extended house. Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, 4th Bedroom/Study. The first floor offers Bathroom/WC. Well established garden and parking.

Kearsney Office

01304 823714

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Whitfield £325,000

Five bedroom individually built detached house with two reception rooms, en suite to master bedroom, fitted kitchen, gardens and garage. Viewing highly recommended.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Romney Marsh £134,995

Top floor flat with sea views from lounge and kitchen. Two bedrooms, modern kitchen and bathroom, lounge with balcony, communal gardens, garage.

New Romney

01797 363194



Dover £159,950

Family home. Lounge. Dining room. Refitted kitchen. Utility room. Ground floor cloakroom. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Enclosed rear garden.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Folkestone £329,995

Seven bedroom semi detached family home. Three reception rooms. Two bathrooms. Popular residential area.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



Lydd on Sea £210,000

Three bedroom semi detached house with sea views, two reception rooms, garden, off road parking, garage on bloc. No chain.

New Romney

01797 363194

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Investment opportunity. One bedroom first floor purpose built flat offered for sale with tenant in place.

DOVER



£80,000

Investment opportunity. Two bedroom first floor purpose built flat offered for sale with tenant in place.

AYLESHAM



£94,995

Top floor maisonette in village location with two bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating and garage.

DOVER



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £95,000

Two bedroom house with double glazing, gas central heating and garden. Ideal first home or investment.

DOVER



£99,995

Two bedroom terrace house with double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal first purchase.

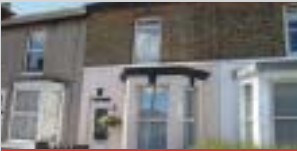
EYTHORNE



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £120,000

Three bedroom semi detached house with two reception rooms. In need of modernisation.

DOVER



£120,000

Three bedroom terrace house with two receptions, double glazing, gas central heating and rear garden. No chain.

DOVER



£129,995

Three bedroom terrace house with two reception areas, double glazing, gas heating, rear garden.

AYLESHAM



£134,995

Two bed semi detached bungalow with two receptions, double glazing, gas central heating and off road parking.

DOVER



£141,995

Three bedroom family home in sought after location. Viewing highly recommended.

DOVER



£145,000

Two bedroom ground floor apartment in sought after sea front development. No chain.

ST. MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE



£165,000

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House. Three Receptions. Garage and Driveway. No Onward Chain.

SHEPHERDSWELL



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £200,000

Two bedroom detached bungalow in village location with two reception room, garage and gardens.

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FOLKESTONE



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £97,000

Refurbished retirement apartment. Bed, lounge, fitted kitchen and bathroom/ WC. laundry room & guest room facilities.

FOLKESTONE



£99,500

Refurbished garden flat with two sunny courtyards. Bed, reception rm, open plan kitchen, bathroom, outside store.

FOLKESTONE



£129,950

This garden flat lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, utility, two beds & bathroom. Gas central heating. D. glazing.

FOLKESTONE



£145,000

Three storey house comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bathrooms, four bedrooms and separate WC.

FOLKESTONE



£149,950

Three bedroom ground floor flat. Spacious well planned accommodation including cloakroom & dressing room.

HYPHE



£152,500

Two bedroom cottage with two receptions, working fireplace, double glazing, gas central heating & garden.

FOLKESTONE



£159,995

A four storey house comprising: 4/5 beds, 1/2 receptions, kitchen/diner, cloakroom & bathroom/WC.

CHERITON



£164,950

A three bedroom family home with lounge diner, part double glazing, central heating and rear garden.

FOLKESTONE



£174,950

Three bedroom family home in the sought after Cheriton area. Offered with no chain. Viewing recommended.

LYMPNE



£179,950

Two bedroom detached bungalow with drive, garage, gas central heating, part double glazed and gardens.

FOLKESTONE



£295,000

Bay fronted semi-detached house refurbished & modernised. Over four floors, gas central heating and parking.

CAPEL-LE-FERNE



£299,000

Bungalow set in attractive established gardens. New soffits and guttering, repointed, rewired, gas central heating.

WEST HYPHE



£499,950

Five beds, two receptions, kitchen, two bathrooms, garage, paddocks approx 1.5 acres, two stables, tack room.

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MOTORS NEWS



Wait for sighting of the new Yeti is almost over

SKODA launches its fifth model line on September 17, when the Yeti crossover arrives, priced from £13,750 with air-con as standard.

With four trim levels and a 4x4 option though, you can pay as much as £22,120 for this rugged yet stylish newcomer.

Realistically though, most people will go for level two or 'Yeti S' spec from £14,250, the start point for alloys as standard to complement the neat body design. The two or four-wheel drive and DSG options also come into play.



Golf rules apply to the all-new VW Polo

VOLKSWAGEN has created an all-new Polo supermini using striking design language already seen on the latest Golf and Scirocco Coupe.

Priced from £10,035 for the five-door model – the three-door arrives in December – order books are already open and deliveries start in October.

Apart from the elegant styling, the other main talking point on this 5th generation car is ESP (electronic stabilisation programme) as standard for enhanced safety and driving response.

Though bigger than last time, the car is lighter for better economy and emissions.



Superlighting way for a future MX-5

MAZDA has unveiled a stunning Superlight MX-5 concept.

Billed as a show car to highlight lightweight technology and underline the roadster's 20-years on the market, comments and reaction will surely be taken into account for a next generation car.

It would be nice, for instance, if the Superlight's stylish headrest nacelles appear on a future version of the world's best-selling two-seat sports car.

The current MX has just had a facelift that sharpens the styling without altering curvaceous lines carried over through three generations.



MADE IN INDIA: The new Suzuki Alto lacks refinement but is economical, spacious and a good deal cheaper alternative for people looking to cut their motoring budget

Alto misses high notes but pricing is low-key

ROAD TEST SUZUKI ALTO

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

auto option though – you'll need to hoist a spinaker and run before the wind to hit 60mph in less than 17 seconds – but £600 extra for the auto is a reasonable premium if you must have an easy-driving city runabout.

I like the car's wheel-at-each-corner design, which delivers the best cabin space possible and a ride with less fore and aft pitching.

The car is roomy for four with a reasonable boot and decent stowage – the big dashboard bin and centre console are particularly useful – and the high-mounted audio controls are just a span from the left hand on the wheel.

Suzuki has weighted the pliancy of the ride nicely against grip and handling. It was never intended to be a fireball, but the Alto can be piloted aggressively – albeit noisily – when required and the lack of cornering sag is impressive.

Running costs should be ridiculously low with a potential for averaging 60mpg and insurance groupings of 1-2, though the car misses out narrowly on escaping road tax of £35/year.

Our test car was the SZ4 flagship (£7,960), but the various extras don't do much to justify a price tag that brings impressive rivals into play.

The sub-£7,000 SZ2 might be the better bet for those keen to cut their motoring budget.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FAMILY HATCHBACKS

WANT to downsize yet still run a car that does it all? Start shopping for a family hatchback; it seats five, can be crammed like a small van and represents a good balance of space, flexibility and economy... providing you don't go for the 'hot hatch' version. Competition is tough in this sector too, so there are few duds to beware of. Our trio here are affordable and should each give excellent service even if they offer differing propositions on street credibility – the Corolla was axed primarily for its dull image.

FORD FOCUS



BRITAIN'S favourite car. Or is it? Some say it's No1 through Ford's formidable market share. Fair point, but the Focus is also great to drive, practical, well-made and blessed with good engines. For secondhand buyers there is a fantastic choice of power – including the rapid ST – trim levels and body styles: a smart saloon and estate plus a coupe convertible. The car's popularity and ordinary looks are a weakness though and reason enough for some buyers to look elsewhere.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

TOYOTA COROLLA



TOYOTA chopped the Corolla in 2007 in favour of the Auris, but the latter has all the same virtues and disadvantages. More than any other model, the Corolla made Toyota the world's No1 carmaker – it was affordable and durable, but a little dull. There is plenty of engine and body choice though and even racy versions, though the car pretty much does what it says on the tin. Corolla prices have eased too with its perception as a 'deleted' model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MAZDA3



MAZDA'S link with Ford means that a lot of Focus resided beneath the skin of the first and newly-replaced Mazda3 and that means neat handling. But the Mazda stands out visually from its ubiquitous half-sister, a fact not lost on used car buyers looking for something distinctive. The '3' is mostly found as a capacious hatchback, but there is also a sporty saloon. Engines are lively, in line with Mazda's sporty 'Zoom-Zoom' image – look out for the MPS hot hatch.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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AUDI

A4, 2.0 MULTITRONIC DIESEL AUTO, 2005, blue metallic with grey cloth interior, 115000 miles, £2699, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RS6, CAT D REPAIRED, 2003, grey with black leather, 27000 miles, £13995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 325i SE manual touring, 2001, crystal green met with green cloth, 122000 miles, £2999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 523i SPORT manual, 2007, silver metallic with black alcantara sport seats, 39000 miles, £16999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 3.0D SPORT 5dr Auto, yc04mdf, adjustable seats, air con, alloys, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. Insurance group:17, black, 60000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

LEGANZA, CDX AUTO, 1998, silver, 80000 miles, £1495, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, 2004, met blue, 50234 miles, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2, 2002, burnt orange, 52651 miles, £1995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec 5dr BRAND NEW UNREGISTERED, TERMS APPLY, gl09fo, terms apply, metallic ocean. abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, folding rear wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, power assisted steering, radio/cd, blue, 5 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0TDCi Titanium 136ps 5dr "AUTOMATIC SPORT PACK", ca08cw, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser,

passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sony all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, 18 alloys, sports pack, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, spoiler, blue, 0 miles, £15000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr, ap08nfn, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, 17 alloy upgrade, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, adjustable seats, child locks, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, remote locking, side airbags. Insurance group:7, grey, 28102 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 1998, green, 86786 miles, £995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, lx, 1998, met green, 61000 miles, £800, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 2000, blue, 75000 miles, £1295, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4TDCi Zetec, 2009, vision, 3000 miles, £12495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2003, metropolis blue, 51800 miles, £4795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Style Climate, 2007, ocean blue, 14957 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Ghia 1.6 TDCi, 2006, tango red, 17000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.3 Finesse, 2003, moon dust silver, 61000 miles, £3995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 1000 miles, £11495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, moon dust silver, 2000 miles, £10995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4 TDCi Zetec, 2009, hot magenta, 2400 miles, £12795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2006, jeans, 17586 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2007, moon dust silver, 14000 miles, £8495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Ghia Automatic, 2006, moon dust silver, 10000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6TDCi Zetec Climate, 2006, amethyst, 39400 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, vision, 1500 miles, £11795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Titanium 3dr*****INDIVIDUAL*****, gl09du, metallic hot magenta. abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, individual leather pack, quickclear heated screen, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, 18 alloys, sports pack, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic pai, red, 7000 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr, gf05ybn, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, insurance group:6, silver, 40828 miles, £5495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr - FORD DIRECT, gf58hlx, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, rear headrests, traction control. Insurance group:7, black, 17221 miles, £11495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi Sport 5dr [110] [Euro 4], air con, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, pas, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. Insurance group:6, black, 44055 miles, £7990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto, nl58tlk, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, remote locking. Insurance group:7, grey, 10999 miles, £11990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 Zetec 5dr [Climate], en08ccu, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. Insurance group:5, silver, 6164 miles, £8990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr - AUTO [140] - P/A & PRIVACY, nb08lhw, front and rear park assist, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. Insurance group:9, silver, 9609 miles, £16490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van TDCi 125ps, bt07evm, panel van, 1 year warranty and roadside assistance, day cab, finance available, full dealer facilities, ply lined, swb, factory fitted bulk head, hp-leasing, white, 45600 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Auto [140], nb08lzh, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. Insurance group:11, silver, 15522 miles, £16990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Auto [140], nb08lwj, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. Insurance group:11, silver, 15520 miles, £16990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style [70] 3dr [Climate], ls07vln, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking. Insurance group:3, blue, 24101 miles, £5990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style [70] 3dr [Climate], oe07jyx, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel. Insurance group:3, blue, 25637 miles, £5790, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Zetec [70] 3dr [Climate] - AC & QUICKCLEAR, gl08fn, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, rear headrests. Insurance group:4, silver, 4800 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Titanium X 5dr [140] Auto***AUTOMATIC***, kr58zgd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. grey, 9000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr, eo58wm, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. Insurance group:9, silver, 9609 miles, £16490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van TDCi 125ps, bt07evm, panel van, 1 year warranty and roadside assistance, day cab, finance available, full dealer facilities, ply lined, swb, factory fitted bulk head, hp-leasing, white, 45600 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 280 SWB Low Roof Van ***SWB***, na55ebo, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp-leasing, ply lined, swb, warranty, white, 18036 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Tipper TDCi 90ps DRW***TIPPER***350***, nl56fsg, tipper, finance available, full dealer facilities, warranty, remote locking, 1 year warranty and roadside assistance, lwb, white, 26197 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, 2.2 i-CTDi Sport 5dr, gl07vde, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, climate control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, pas, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. Insurance group:10, silver, 29800 miles, £12395, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.0 i v-tec se sport auto, 2002, black with black half leather, 88000 miles, £4999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

X-TYPE, 2.0d Sport Premium 4dr, bp54bzk, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, headlight washers, heated seats, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. Insurance group:14, silver, 37000 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

XJ, 3.0 v6 se auto, 2003, blue metallic with sand leather, 49000 miles, £10999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

JEEP

CHEROKEE, 2.8 CRD Limited 5dr Auto, ko06aw, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. Insurance group:13, black, 51200 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LAMBORGHINI

DIABLO, 1998, purple metallic with cream leather, 57000 miles, £59950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

RANGE ROVER, 2005, blue metallic with beige leather with pipping, 40600 miles, £23999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER, 1996, green metallic with grey full leather, 100000 miles, £2400, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MERCEDES BENZ

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, polar silver metallic, 7000 miles, £12980, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, polar silver metallic, 5000 miles, £13290, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, Avantgarde SE Manual 3 DR Avantgarde SE, 2006, polar silver metallic, 33023 miles, £8890, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, Classic SE Manual 5 DR Classic SE, 2008, atoll blue metallic, 43116 miles, £9490, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, cosmos black metallic, 3000 miles, £14497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, mountain grey metallic, 3500 miles, £15497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

A160, 5dr Classic SE#REDUCED#, 2009, horizon blue metallic, 3000 miles, £16498, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A160, 5dr Classic SE#REDUCED#, 2009, polar silver metallic, 3000 miles, £16498, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, cosmos black metallic, 5000 miles, £13390, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 DOOR Elegance SE, 2007, polar silver metallic, 13050 miles, £10998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A170, EleganceSE Manual 5 DR Elegance SE, 2006, atoll blue metallic, 22439 miles, £9490, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A170, Avantgarde SE Manual 5 DR Avantgarde SE, 2005, polar silver metallic, 22300 miles, £8990, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A180 CDI, 3 DOOR Avantgarde SE, 2008, mistral blue, 7300 miles, £13250, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2005, obsidian black metallic, 12902 miles, £14994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 12755 miles, £20979, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2009, tansanite blue metallic, 4500 miles, £27995, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 12500 miles, £20497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, obsidian black, 16644 miles, £15497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde (2 years free servicing), 2008, iridium silver, 9978 miles, £20997, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 5000 miles, £25994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 11872 miles, £24494, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2008, iridium silver, 8754 miles, £20494, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde (2 years free servicing), 2008, columbite black, 12457 miles, £20998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, "REDUCED", 2009, obsidian black metallic, 5500 miles, £24997, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde #2 years Free Service#, 2008, columbite black, 11869 miles, £20998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, BlueEFFICIENCY SE#REDUCED#, 2009, obsidian black metallic, 5000 miles, £25998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2007, iridium silver, 26772 miles, £17998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde #2 years free service#, 2008, indium grey, 13643 miles, £21498, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2007, iridium silver metallic, 6523 miles, £23998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2007, iridium silver metallic, 24100 miles, £18249, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, 2009, palladium silver metallic, 8000 miles, £22990, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

SL350, ROADSTER, 2009, thulite red metallic, 100 miles, £56490, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

SL55 AMG, ROADSTER, 2007, obsidian black metallic, 15500 miles, £58900, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

SLK200 KOMPRESSOR, 2005, obsidian black metallic, 30672 miles, £16997, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

MG

TF, 2002, blue with half leather, 42000 miles, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 2004, black metallic with black and beige two tone leath, 50000 miles, £6999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6 3dr, lb08uaw, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, remote locking. Insurance group:8, silver, 4000 miles, £12995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 C2Z ClearTec 5dr, kg09nwl, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. Insurance group:5, blue, 3000 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.3 C2Z 3dr, kg09nwm, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests. Insurance group:5, white, 6000 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab DI-D Diamond 4WD Auto 165Bhp, fe57ohf, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, heated seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, navigation system, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control. Insurance group:19, blue, 21500 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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- OTHER
- PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION
- PR, MEDIA, JOURNALISM
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Should you wish to discuss this role informally, please contact Smita Derodra or Karl Grice on 01795 590212.

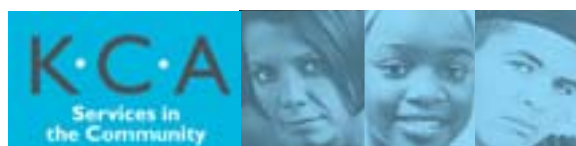
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In addition, you will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager, on 01795 590795.

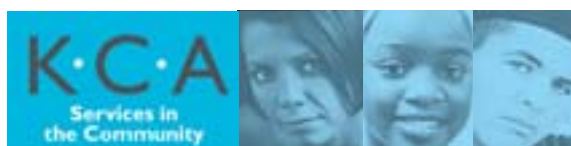
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www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference: 592.

Closing date: Wednesday 2 September 2009.

Interview date: Friday 11 September 2009.

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Closing date: 21 August 2009

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Location: Medway

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For an informal discussion, please contact Sue Hopkins on 01634 338442 or 338439 or email sue.hopkins@medway.gov.uk For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-1pm or 01634 332843 24-hour answerphone. Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

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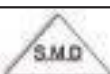


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Pictures ADY KERRY



DOWN AND OUT: Rob Key not picked to play Australia

Selectors by-pass Key for crucial fifth Test

KENT'S Rob Key has once again been overlooked by the England selectors after he was left out of the squad for the crucial fifth Test against Australia.

The Kent captain was believed to be in line to replace the out-of-form Ravi Bopara for the final Ashes Test that starts at the Oval tomorrow. While ex-players and pundits queued up to insist Key was the man to fill the spot after a return to form for his county, the England selectors decided to take a bigger gamble and pick the uncapped Jonathan Trott.

The Warwickshire batsman will bat at

CRICKET

number four with the England selector's 'favourite', Ian Bell, assuming the troubled number three berth in the batting line-up.

While Key will be no doubt disappointed in not being selected for the game, he refused to blame the speculation during the course of the week on his side's poor display at Edgbaston on Twenty20 finals day.

"I have not had a moment to catch my breath really," he said. "We came into that game on the back of three back-to-back

championship games and after playing so badly against Middlesex we had to make sure we got a win in the championship, so I was keeping an eye on the press, but Sunday was the first day I have had off in quite a while so it gave the chance to look back at a hectic week."

What's perhaps more surprising is the fact off-spinner James Tredwell has failed to be talked about in terms of a call-up. He out bowled Monty Panesar in the championship win against Northants last week with figures of 10 for 100, compared to Panesar's 2 for 127.

Tredwell spins Kent to win at Northants

JAMES Tredwell took his 50th first-class wicket of the season as Kent wrapped up a 238-run win against Northamptonshire to go 17 points clear at the top of Division Two in the County Championship.

The Kent off-spinner claimed match figures of 10 for 100 after taking five wickets in both innings, going on to register his 57th first-class wicket of the season.

Kent scored 244 in their first innings with Key top scoring with 90 before Tredwell claimed 5 for 68 to bowl Northants out for 218.

Martin van Jaarsveld then scored an unbeaten 100 with Geraint Jones hitting 93, as Kent declared on 302 for 5. Tredwell then spun Kent to victory on the final day with figures of 5 for 32 as Northants were bowled out for 90.

Kent return to championship action next Friday with the visit of Surrey to Canterbury.

Picture: ADY KERRY



IN-FORM: James Tredwell took 10-wicket haul

St Lawrence hosts Ponting's Aussies

WHILE the Spitfires were busy with Twenty20 finals day, the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury played host to the Australian cricket team.

The Aussies put their final preparations together for the final Test with England at the Oval tomorrow, with a two-day game against the England Lions at Canterbury. Kent were due to play the Australian tourists but their involvement in finals day meant the fixture was taken up by the Lions.

It was the chance for Kent fans to see Aussie skipper Ricky Ponting, who scored 45 on the opening day, up close. For a report from the game, visit our website.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



ALL IN VAIN: Darren Stevens (left) played aggressively for the Spitfires but it was in vain as Marcus Trescothick (right) orchestrated a seven-wicket win for the Somerset Sabres



Trescothick gives Spitfires a Twenty20 masterclass

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

A BELOW par performance from the Kent Spitfires resulted in them missing out on a third straight Twenty20 Cup final and with it the potential riches of the Champions League.

A seven-wicket defeat in the semi-final, orchestrated by Somerset Sabres' former England opener Marcus Trescothick, on Saturday saw the Spitfires exit the competition with a whimper. It also meant the club missed out on the chance to compete for £3.6 million in the inaugural Champions League against the best Twenty20 sides from the likes of Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, at the event staged in India during October.

The loss of all-rounder Ryan McLaren was the first blow of the afternoon as the South African failed to shake off a side strain picked up in a championship game earlier in the

month. It left skipper Rob Key with a decision to play either fast bowler Amjad Khan or left-arm spinner Rob Ferley. The Kent captain opted for the pace and experience of Khan, but the selection backfired when the England quick bowler conceded 16 runs in his opening over.

It was the worst possible start for the Spitfires who had earlier scored a competitive 145 for 5, thanks largely to a typically aggressive 77 in 51 balls from Darren Stevens. The Spitfires had slumped to 32 for 3 from their opening six overs, but Stevens clawed back the impetus with a fine knock that included taking 20 from the final over of the innings.

His efforts proved to be in vain, however, as Trescothick took a liking to the Kent attack,

which included overseas fast bowler Wayne Parnell. The Somerset opener got the innings off to a flier, smashing 56 from just 32 balls to set up a comfortable win for the men from Taunton, who galloped home with seven balls to spare.

The Sabres scored 71 for 0 from the first six overs compared to Kent's 32 for 3 and that, according to Key, was the big difference between the two sides.

"You have got to start well and be right on the money and we weren't," he said. "We conceded 16 off the first over and we probably bowled a bit too wide and bit too full. It was the story of the first six really, we didn't bat well enough in the first six, but I think with 145 if we had a decent bowling show it might have been different."

"It is not an easy wicket to bat on. They bowled full and straight and did it, while we bowled full and wide and from that stage we were always clawing it back."



Picture: SIMON HARRIS

ON TARGET: Adam Birchall scored a brace as Dover continued their promising start to the season with an excellent win over Dorchester Town at Crabble on Saturday

Southall experience key to Whites' start, says Hess

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Dover Athletic 4

Birchall 15, 89, Southall 76, Welford 90

Dorchester Town 1

Gleeson 39



DOVER boss Andy Hessenthaler pointed to the experience of Nicky Southall for his side's good start to the season.

The Whites made it seven points out of a possible nine at the weekend after making easy work of Dorchester Town at Crabble.

After a frenetic start, Dover should have taken the lead inside the first minute. A long ball flicked on by Shaun Welford found Adam Birchall in the area, but his shot was well saved by Dorchester goalkeeper Ryan Northmore.

Hessenthaler's side piled on the pressure and had two chances cleared off the line by the scrambling Dorchester defence.

The first saw Sammy Moore's shot cleared away by Gary Bowles which was followed by Welford's far post effort clawed out by Northmore.

However, the next attack a minute later saw Dover finally break the deadlock. Birchall used his pace to split the Dorchester defence before firing the ball beyond Northmore for his second goal in as many games.

The home side's dominance continued with two further efforts cleared off the line by the Dorchester defence on the half hour from Lee Browning and Birchall.

The Whites were forced to rue their missed opportunities seven minutes before the break, as Dorchester scored an equaliser against the run of play. The Dover defence failed to clear a cross into the area, which Jamie Gleeson poked into the net.

In the second half the visitors came close to taking the lead just after the hour when Bowles shot wide from six yards with just goalkeeper Lee Hook to beat.

With Dover finding it difficult to break down the Dorchester defence, the home side were handed a lifeline with a free-kick on the edge of the area with 14 minutes remaining. Southall stepped up and fired the ball into the net to the delight of the Dover supporters.

Dover Athletic



Subs used: Gore (Wallis 80), Walder (Moore 80), Hughes (Browning 67)

Two quick-fire goals from Birchall and Welford gave the scoreline a more emphatic look, with the victory stretching Dover's unbeaten start to the season to three games.

A delighted Hessenthaler said after the game: "Nicky's goal didn't surprise me, he has the quality to do something special with free-kicks and he was man-of-the-match."

"His experience has been key and it has shone through in the first three games, which has pleased me."

"Seven points out of a possible nine is a great start to the season and we are going to be up there towards the top of the league, but there is still a long way to go."

Dover were at Chelmsford on Monday night. For a full report visit www.yourdover.co.uk.

Invicta lack clinical touch in draw



STALEMATE: Dave Cory (right) came closest to scoring a goal on his Folkestone debut but just missed out

FOOTBALL

Folkestone 0 Dulwich Hamlet 0

FOLKESTONE Invicta enjoyed the best of a lively game but had to settle for a share of the points in their opening fixture of the season.

Missing skipper Jimmy Dryden, ruled out for at least another week with a knee injury, the Seaside's lacked a killer touch in front of goal.

Darren Smith and new signing Dave Cory had the best chances around the hour mark, but both lacked composure. Despite the draw Invicta boss Neil Cugley, whose side visit Eastbourne Town this evening, was content with the performance.

He said: "For a 0-0 I thought it was quite entertaining. Whoever took their chance would have won. I think we had the best

chances and I'm disappointed we couldn't put one away, but it'll come."

Elsewhere, both Deal Town and Hythe Town kept up their good start to the season with wins in the FA Cup's extra preliminary round.

Deal looked to be heading for a replay against Arundel after two Jason Brazier strikes were cancelled out by the visitors. Scott Holden netted the winner six minutes from time to see Derek Hares' side safely through to the next round.

Hythe also left it late against Whitehawk. Dave Cook's 30-yard free-kick put Scott Porter's side in front at the break, but after the hosts equalised it was left to Kieran Byrne to notch his third goal in two games with an 83rd-minute winner.

Deal visit Herne Bay this evening, while Hythe are next in action on Saturday against Fisher.

CRICKET ROUND-UP



Picture: IOR KUPCO

GIFT: Sandwich's tail battled to avoid defeat

Sandwich are in a pickle after losing draw at Canterbury

SANDWICH Town were outplayed but hung on to deny Canterbury a victory in a crunch relegation clash in the Premier Division on Saturday.

Matthew van Poppel took 2 for 19 as Canterbury were restricted to 185 for 7 at Polo Farm. Chasing a victory, which would have put clear daylight between themselves and the bottom two, Town lost Craig Snell (1) and Stuart Smith (0) early on.

David Scoggins (32) was one of only three batsmen to reach double figures and Sandwich had to dig in to avoid a costly defeat. Gavin Lawrence and Jack Bradley managed to see out the allocation, but it left Sandwich just one point above the drop zone with three games left.

Folkestone got the victory they needed to stay clear of trouble at the bottom as their two-wicket win at Tenterden saw them find the comfort of mid-table.

Thomas Cullen (4 for 36) helped knock over the home side for just 147 to put Folkestone in charge. The visitors had Essex all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate to thank for pulling them out of a tricky situation. The Netherlands international hit 60 as Folkestone scraped home with two wickets to spare.

Sibton Park sealed their promotion from Division Two in quick fashion as they beat Broadstairs by five wickets at Lyngme. Andy Allon and Trevor Lewis took three wickets apiece as the visitors were all out for just 72.

The hosts' top order were all dismissed cheaply to briefly give Broadstairs hope of an unlikely victory, but Daniel Lodge and Ben Carberry both hit 21 to see Sibton Park home in the 22nd over.

Walmer occupy a place in the Division Four relegation zone following a 60-run defeat to Rodmersham, while Betteshanger Colliery Welfare suffered a potentially crippling blow to their Division Five promotion hopes with a 23-run loss to Chislehurst.

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- Mechanical Engineering (Ashford)
- Electrical/Electronic Engineering (Ashford)
- Engineering Operations (Ashford)
- Marine Engineering (Ashford)
- Construction Plant Maintenance (Ashford)

Interested in Computing and I.T.?

If you are fascinated by computers, development and programming, this is your area:

- I.C.T. Practitioners (Ashford)
- European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) (Ashford/Dover/Folkestone)
- Computer-Aided Design 2-D (Ashford/Folkestone)
- Computer-Aided Design 3-D (Ashford)

Interested in Food, Catering and Hospitality?

Courses available in:

- Food Preparation and Cooking (Ashford/Folkestone)
- Professional Chef (Folkestone)
- Food and Drink Service (Folkestone)
- Multi-skilled Hospitality (Folkestone)
- Housekeeping (Folkestone)
- Front Office (Folkestone)
- Hospitality Supervision (Folkestone)

Interested in Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy and Complementary Therapies?

Courses available in:

- Hairdressing (Ashford/Dover/Folkestone)
- Beauty Therapy (Ashford/Dover/Folkestone)
- Salon Services (Folkestone)
- Nails Treatment (Folkestone)
- Complementary and Alternative Therapies (Folkestone)

Interested in Sports, Leisure and Tourism?

Courses available in:

- Sports and Exercise (Folkestone)
- Gym Instructing (Folkestone)
- Sports Therapy (Folkestone)
- Travel and Tourism (Dover)

Interested in Working in the Police, Ambulance, Fire and other Public Services?

Courses available in:

- Public Services (Folkestone)



For more information, call **0845 207 8220** or visit **www.southkent.ac.uk**

APPLY NOW!

Why study at South Kent College?

More than 9/10 students would recommend South Kent College to a friend**

95% of students feel the College treats them with respect**

92% of students would recommend their course to another person**

**End of year 2008/09 survey conducted with our students



Natalie, 18

People here are more relaxed than at school and you can get on with your work at your own pace. You get help to meet your deadlines and students are motivated; it's their own choice to come to College.



Daniel, 17

It's very different from school. There are very diverse people here, many different personalities, and it's great to meet new people. Also you work on very interesting projects, that you manage yourself, but you can always obtain good help and advice from the staff.



Scott, 18

I like the general atmosphere at College, it's different from school in the sense that you are respected and treated on equal terms and you can get on with your work; there are also good facilities which is great.



Abbeygail, 18

Life at College is different: you mix with lots of different people, teachers are approachable and you are treated like an adult. Resources are good and the tutors are really supportive, helping you with the coursework.

To apply for a course or to obtain free and impartial advice on the right next step for you, please contact us on 0845 207 8220

New Course Guides for September

To request your copies fill in the slip below and return it in an envelope (no stamp needed) to:

**Course Information, South Kent College,
FREEPOST CU 862, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2BR**

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

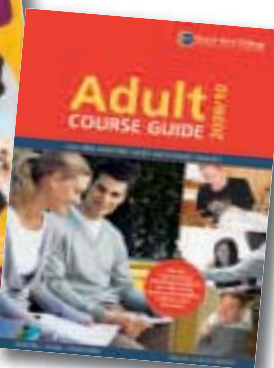
Telephone _____

You can also request your guide(s) by calling **0845 207 8220** or by visiting **www.southkent.ac.uk**



Course guide for Adults (19+)
Full-time, part-time, evening
and short courses

NEW - Revised and Updated
Course guide for 16-18 year-olds



Call **0845 207 8220**

Visit **www.southkent.ac.uk**

Email **courseinformation@southkent.ac.uk**



South Kent College
ASHFORD > DOVER > FOLKESTONE

